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Hayward has what San Francisco is still waiting for – an LGBT community center.
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That seems to be what Dr. Laura is saying.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Controversy marks AIDS conference opening



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, third from right, and other religious leaders lead the Treatment Action Campaign's march, demanding equal access to HIV/AIDS drugs on Sunday, the opening day of the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa.

by Bob Roehr

Fireworks, both physical and verbal, marked the opening of the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, which started Sunday, July 9 and ends this Friday, July 14. The theme of "Break the Silence" may mark a turning point in dealing with the epidemic,

at least in this developing nation.

A Sunday afternoon demonstration drew 5,000 to 10,000 people – depending upon who you listened to – to demand an end to South African government inaction, access to AIDS drugs, and significantly lower prices from the international pharmaceutical companies.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, ex-wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela, the guiding moral force of the new nation,

was one of the principle speakers at the event. It drew members of ACT UP from chapters around the world and conference delegates. But the protesters were primarily South Africans, seemingly from every social, racial, and ethnic corner of society.

Gregg Gonsalves, with the Treatment Action Group in New York City, called it "their FDA demo, their storm the NIH." It was mostly young South African men and

women who are infected with HIV.

"The energy was incredible," said Anne Donnelly with Project Inform in San Francisco. "It was wonderful being there. It may have an impact in terms of community organizing and empowerment."

"This whole experience has felt very much like 1986," said New York activist Gary Rose. "It was the energy of those people, their

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Supe Katz won't seek re-election

by Cynthia Laird



Supervisor Leslie Katz at her City Hall news conference on Monday, July 10

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz is the first victim of district elections, and voters haven't even gone to the polls yet. On Monday, July 10, Katz held a news conference at City Hall to announce that she won't be seeking re-election because she can't afford to leave her Bernal Heights home to move into District 6. The announcement throws the race wide open, as no incumbent lives in the district, which includes the Tenderloin, South of Market, and Treasure Island.

Katz said the decision not to seek another term was difficult, and one that took months to decide. "I have determined that it is just financially untenable to continue on the board," she said.

Katz lives in Bernal Heights, which is in District 9 and also is the residence of Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, who is viewed by most observers as a solid favorite for re-election. For months, Katz said she planned to relocate somewhere in District 6, home to many high rent live-work developments and red-hot dot-com companies. The irony was not lost on some attending the news conference that Katz, long a champion of high tech industries, was being squeezed out by the booming economy that high tech has fueled in the city. In fact, until last month, Katz worked as a corporate vice president making six figures for Petstore.com. She lost that job when the company was bought by a rival dot-com. Prior to that she had a law practice.

She emphasized that it's difficult to work at an outside job and be an effective supervisor. "In order to properly serve in this position, I cannot hold outside employment and really do either position justice. Accordingly, I will not run for a second term," she said.

Katz said she will finish out her term, which ends in January.

Technically, being a San Francisco supervisor is a part-time job, although board mem-

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Mark Leno's housing plan stirs confusion, support

by Katie Szymanski

It's a hot topic, and one that most San Francisco politicians would like to be known for addressing. But when it comes to affordable housing in this city, every solution has its critics.

When Supervisor Mark Leno last week announced his new legislation aimed at encouraging affordable housing, activists were quick to dismiss the move as both exclusionary and aimed at those who need it the least. The legislation, it seemed, would make affordable housing available only to people who made above \$40,000 a year. But those figures were clarified this week by Leno's staff, who may have been explaining the guidelines incorrectly to the media. In fact Leno's affordable housing will go to renters who make less than – not more than – the area's median income.

"I don't know that the *Chronicle* necessarily got it wrong," Bob Hartnagel, Leno's legislative assistant, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They just weren't very specific."

But Leno's office first explained to the *B.A.R.* that wealthy individuals would qualify while the poorest would not. An hour later Hartnagel said that the reverse was actually true.

Leno's legislation works off of a federal formula that defines who needs affordable housing, which is based on the median income of a region. In the Bay Area, a place abundant with new wealth for a select few, the median annual income for an individual is \$50,700. Affordable

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Former journalist enters SF politics

by Katie Szymanski

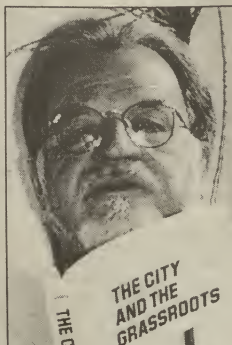
The District 6 race for supervisor may lack an incumbent, since Supervisor Leslie Katz's announcement that she's not running [see story, page 1], but it has never been short on openly gay candidates. As the campaigns swing into full gear for what is now a wide open race, Kent Brandle would like the public to know how he stands apart from the 22 other people, including two gay men, seeking to represent the most diverse region of San Francisco.

Brandle, 64, is the third gay candidate to come forward for the district that includes South of Market, the Tenderloin, the inner Mission, Treasure Island, and South Beach.

"But it doesn't end with my being gay," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Brandle lives in a residential hotel in the Civic Center, and says his background makes him the best person to represent the district's denizens.

"I represent the tenant and the pedestrian and the average working person."

His careers have included a stint as a Christian minister in training ("I fell in love with my roommate at Ozark Bible College in Missouri and decided, 'This is not going to work.'"). In 1964 he



District 6 candidate Kent Brandle

was honorably discharged from the United States Army. In 1965 he was appointed by Alaska's governor to the state's Athletic Commission. He also has a long history of writing, both as an environmentalist and gay journalist, including reporting work for the *B.A.R.* several years ago. He is no longer employed by the paper.

Brandle's plans for the city include periodic "Green Sundays," where San Francisco is closed to all non-essential automobile traffic.

"We shouldn't pay the bill for commuters who don't even live in this city," he said. Pedestrian safety is also an issue.

"Long before the present clam-

or resulting in needless pedestrian deaths I have recognized the need to return the city to the people," he said. He proposes pedestrian safety islands and scramble signals where all vehicles stop and all pedestrians "dare to move."

"Speed up Muni and slow down auto traffic. The city used to be such a pleasant place to walk."

Brandle also has some ideas about legislation already in the works. He opposes Supervisor Mark Leno's medical marijuana identification cards, for instance, believing "this is a basic violation of our right to be left alone."

He supports a living wage of \$11 an hour, wants to preserve rent control, and would like to create a public utility company as an alternative to Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Finally, Brandle would like to see full implementation of the Sunshine Ordinance, and he'll start by opening his own books, disclosing all of his campaign finances. It's an example he'd like to see City Hall follow, a government body that he said has become all too comfortable with secrecy and inside deals.

"As part of our democratic system of checks and balances the Board of Supervisors should be independent from the mayor," said Brandle. If elected, he said District 6 will be a voice of the people, uncorrupted by the political machine. ▽

Breast Cancer Action celebrates 10th anniversary

by Terry Beswick

Statistics never tell a story very well. Perhaps it's human nature, but they rarely move people to act. Most people just don't want to get involved, at least until a crisis threatens them or their loved ones personally.

And starting a news story with a long list of statistics is just way lame.

Nevertheless, here are a few for you to wash down with your latte:

- 175,000 American women were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 1999 (1 every 3 minutes).

- Last year, 39,900 women were diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (an early form of breast cancer).

- There were 43,700 deaths in the U.S. from breast cancer in 1999 (one death every 12 minutes).

Breast Cancer Action, which provided these statistics, believes that educating people with accurate and timely information is a key first step to moving them to take action, and to influence policy makers.

The group is marking its 10th anniversary Thursday, July 20 with "As long as it takes," an event designed to educate, motivate, and create change—and also to simply have some fun, food, wine, and other beverages.

"It's really a celebration," said Barbara Brenner, BCA's executive director. "It's a celebration of still being here. It's also a reunion and a commemoration of those who founded the organization."

The centerpiece of the 6-8 p.m. event at the Spectrum Gallery at 511 Harrison Street will be the premiere



BCA's Barbara Brenner

of a "brief theatrical civil action."

The unique performance work by the Opera Piccola troupe, known for their trademark brand of "talk back" theater, was specially commissioned by BCA to mark the group's 10 years of breast cancer activism.

As part of the performance, actors will present some little-known and compelling facts or problems about breast cancer, will solicit ideas on how to counter these problems from volunteers in the audience, and will act out these ideas with short improvisations.

Brenner acknowledged that at Thursday's event, the performance will be presented to an audience of BCA supporters likely to be well-informed about breast cancer. But it will also be a demonstration of what others will see, as BCA is also training several activists to perform in the 15-minute show, which they plan to take on the road. The activists

hope to demonstrate for people—especially young people as yet untouched by breast cancer—that there really is a public health emergency, and that they really can do something to help stop it.

"The purpose of the piece is to show people something and to move them to get the policy makers to implement change," said Brenner. "It was designed to be something to take to the streets."

"Breast cancer could be stopped," said Brenner, who suggests that while many people care about breast cancer, usually all they end up doing is worrying about it. "We want people to take their worry and do something with it."

BCA was co-founded in the summer of 1990 by the late Elenore Pred, a Bay Area woman with breast cancer who for years had been frustrated in her search for answers about the causes and treatments for the disease. Inspired by the gains made by the early ACT UP groups of the late 1980s, she worked with other women angry with institutional and government inaction to organize the grassroots organization of breast cancer survivors and their supporters.

Over the last decade, BCA has received national media attention for being at the forefront of the breast cancer activist movement.

Today, with more than 5,000 concerned supporters around the country, BCA works with other breast cancer organizations to bring about legislative and policy changes on the local, state, and

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Lighthouse Community Center opens in Hayward

by Terry Beswick

There's no lighthouse to guide ships lost at sea in downtown Hayward.

But there is the new Lighthouse Community Center, and last Saturday, July 8, over 200 people attended the grand opening celebration, complete with a ribbon cutting from Hayward Mayor Roberta Cooper.

Housed in a 1,500 square foot office space just five blocks from the Hayward BART station, the Lighthouse Community Center at 1217 A Street near Second Street includes a reception area, a lounge area, a couple of meeting rooms, a kitchen area, and an administrative office.

"We kind of look at it as a beam of light that will guide lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders to a sense of community," said Darci Meyers of Community Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems (CommPre), the center's founding sponsor. CommPre is a nonprofit group that sponsors alternative environments in areas where alcohol is sold.

"The mission of the Lighthouse Community Center is to provide a safe and substance-free meeting place with social, informational, and community awareness programs serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community of all



Surrounded by onlookers, Hayward Mayor Roberta Cooper, left, and City Councilman Kevin Dowling, cut the ribbon at the Lighthouse Community Center's grand opening Saturday, July 8.

ages and their friends," said Meyers.

The center has established a 15-member board of directors which includes representatives from several community organizations, and is seeking additional members, Meyers said, adding that the center is planning to incorporate as a separate nonprofit entity. The board meets every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. and its meetings are open to the public.

About \$15,000 was raised to open the center's doors, including a \$3,000 grant from the Horizons Foundation, and the all-volunteer center has an annual budget of about \$25,000, according to Kevin Dowling, an openly gay Hayward

city councilman who sits on the center's board and chairs its fundraising committee.

"I think it's great," said Dowling. "The center will be a place where all the organizations can get together and work together on projects."

The center is open to the public every Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and any time when events or meetings are scheduled. Volunteers are being sought to help the center to expand its hours of operation, and other projects. ▼

For more information, call (510) 881-8167 or visit www.haywardlcc.org.

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Dancing the evening away



Jane Philomeno Celand

Luna and Matu Feliciano enjoy themselves at a salsa party Sunday, July 9 at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club in Oakland. Entertainment was provided by Oncé, a all-woman Latin salsa dance band led by veteran trumpeter Tami Ellis, and including performers Maria Cora, Remy Rodriguez, Michelle Goerlitz, Jan Martinelli, and Sarah Cline. The event was produced by Barbara Price, who said everyone had a great time.

Workshop for those who work with seniors addresses gay issues

by Katie Szymanski

Perhaps you or someone you know works at a nursing home, a senior center, or in some way provides services to older adults. Wouldn't it be nice to brush up on the latest programs and strategies for helping lesbian and gay elders?

The American Society on Aging will offer a workshop tomorrow, Friday, July 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at the San Francisco City College downtown campus. The workshop, entitled, "Evolving Strategies in Increasing Access to Social Supports for Gay and Lesbian Elders" is part of the organization's summer series on aging to

provide training for those who work with older adults.

Lesbian and gay senior citizens are more likely to be isolated and living alone than their heterosexual counterparts, and if they live in a nursing home or other assisted living space, they also tend to be closeted about their sexuality. Of course, life is not much better in our youth-oriented gay culture, which means gay seniors often face discrimination from two different fronts. Knowing these factors, various organizations and activities have emerged specifically for this particular population. But many gay seniors still need to be reached. That's where Friday's workshop comes in.

"Evolving Strategies" will explore why gay and lesbian elders

often are hesitant to use existing health and social services, what unique challenges elders of color face in accessing services, and how providers can make their services more welcoming and accessible. The workshop will be presented by Nancy Flaxman of the Spectrum Center in San Anselmo, Yolanda Sanchez of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, and several representatives from the Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative.

The workshop carries a \$75 registration fee; the downtown campus location is at 800 Mission, at Fourth Street. For more information, or to register, visit www.asaging.org/summer-series, or call (415) 974-9600. ▼

AIDS Walk San Francisco this Sunday

by Terry Beswick

AIDS Walk San Francisco kicks off in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow this Sunday, July 16 with a 9 a.m. participant sign-in, an aerobic warm-up at 9:30 a.m., and opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m.

The annual 10K walkathon will begin at 10:30 a.m., and end back at Sharon Meadow with a celebration starting at 12:30 p.m. Celebrity co-hosts are Gillian Anderson from the *X-Files* and Wilson Cruz of *Party of Five*, *My So-Called Life*, and the hit Broadway show *Rent*. Musical entertainment will be provided by Kristine W. and Deborah Gibson.

The announcement of funds raised by the walk will be at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Although many participants have registered in advance, anyone

can show up on Sunday and walk by either registering on site or simply dropping any amount of cash they want to contribute into one of the many donation buckets at the kick-off, said spokesman Redge Norton of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the principle beneficiary of the event.

According to Norton, last year more than 27,000 people, including more than 900 community and corporate teams, raised over \$3.7 million. Over its 13-year history, more than 214,000 people have participated in AIDS Walk San Francisco, raising over \$32.8 million.

Last year, a panel was established by the Horizons Foundation to select AIDS organizations from among several dozen applicants who hoped to receive a portion of the proceeds raised by the annual walk. However, SFAF then modified the list after the panel had completed its review and sub-

mitted its selection.

This year, for the first time, the selection process was conducted completely independently from SFAF, Norton said. The Horizons Foundation established a review panel, which selected 36 Bay Area nonprofit groups — one less than last year.

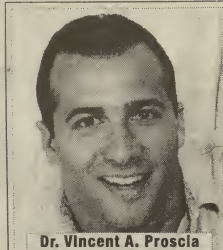
Of the net proceeds from this year's event, SFAF will contribute between 33 and 36 percent to the other organizational beneficiaries.

As in previous years, Miller, Zeichik and Associates is producing the event for a fee of \$95,000.

"I think it's a great community event that is needed because AIDS isn't over," said Norton. "This is an event that anyone can do that wants to help to fight AIDS." ▼

To register, call (415) 392-WALK or go to www.aidswalk.net/aidswalksf.

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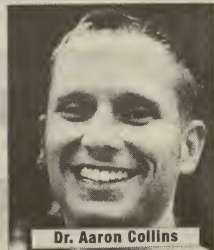


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OPEN FORUM

Numbers games at DPH

The mainstream media fell hook, line, and sinker for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's recent "news" of dramatically increased HIV infection rates in the city. The DPH, and the University of California at San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, presented estimates that new infections of HIV in San Francisco had "nearly doubled" to 900 in the past year. That, of course, prompted the *San Francisco Chronicle* to make it the lead story on June 20, with the sensational headline "SF HIV Rate Surges." The story included this quote from Dr. Willi McFarland, an epidemiologist with DPH: "These are sub-Saharan African levels of transmission."

When we caught up with McFarland, just before he left for this week's 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, he told us something entirely different from what he told the *Chronicle*. First, he said, the figure of 900 new HIV infections "was not an official DPH number" and that his sub-Saharan Africa reference was "unfortunate."

Dr. Mitch Katz, the health director for the city, and ultimately McFarland's supervisor, hadn't even reviewed the data that led to the now-mysterious 900 figure when he spoke with the media.

The truth is that, while the researchers agree HIV infection rates have increased above the previously quoted estimate of 500 new HIV infections a year in San Francisco, no one really knows what the accurate figure is. Yet our own health department, run by an openly gay doctor and AIDS researcher, tells us that "...What I do know is that part of the increase from 500 is due to a better estimate in the size of the gay male population which increases its size, and also it may be that the community itself is growing. Obviously, the more gay men or more people at risk in general that you have, the higher the number of new infections."

DPH seems to be saying that an increase in an at-risk population automatically drives up the numbers for new HIV infection rates. If 900 is an arbitrary estimate, which at this point seems obvious, then what is the accurate level of transmission? DPH does-

n't know. Using an undefined subset of data from anonymous test sites in the city, McFarland gave us some raw numbers not reported elsewhere: in 1998 there were 3,291 tests, and of those, 30 were recently positive. Last year, there was a drop in the number of tests, down to 1,995, and of those, results for 26 showed positive results.

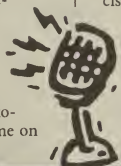
Coincidentally, the hysterical stories in the mainstream media came on the eve of the Durban conference and as talk continues in Washington, D.C. over reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act. San Francisco stands to lose millions of dollars in funding if the CARE Act is reauthorized based on a restructured allocation formula; and if that happens, bloated organizations will have to cut back.

It's unfortunate that the DPH and

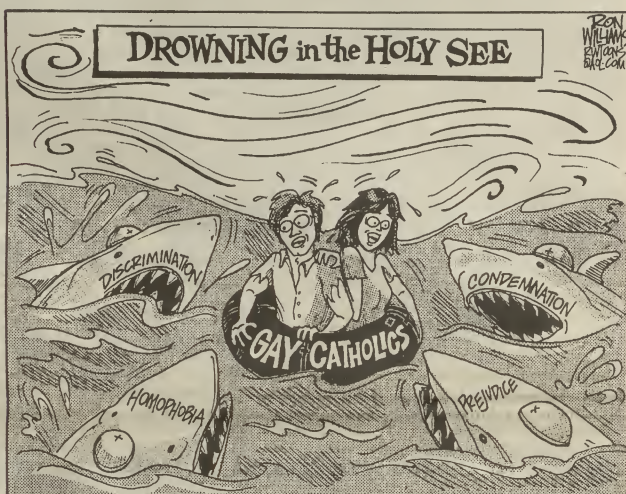
UCSF's CAPS program would flame the fires of AIDS bias in order to justify a renewal of federal funds based on a hysterically exaggerated infection rate in San Francisco due to the number of gay males. In other words, gay men are being used as a scapegoat to secure funds, based on pure speculation.

It's also disingenuous on the part of DPH and CAPS officials that no one bothered to go to the mainstream media to correct the erroneous information, namely the 900 figure.

We don't doubt HIV infection rates have risen in San Francisco, we just don't think it's this 900 figure that seems to be pulled from thin air. There has been a sense of complacency among some gay men and a drop in safer sex practices, but using scare tactics like "HIV rate surges" or "more gays equals higher infection rates" doesn't help the situation. ▼



Editorial



If you're doing the AIDS Walk

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Urge people participating in the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's AIDS Walk this Sunday, July 16, to do one of two things: either participate to raise funds, but donate directly to one of the 36 beneficiaries rather than using SFAF as the middleman, or boycott the event entirely. I neither believe AIDS is over, nor that increasing numbers of persons living with AIDS need less assistance. I do believe most walkers assume this fundraising event will benefit PWAs directly, but sadly, very little of the money raised goes to direct client services or to direct prevention programs.

Have you noticed this year's AIDS Walk media includes six versions at each of their ad venues: six versions each of external bus posters, internal bus posters, bus shelter ads, MUNI transit posters, print media ads, and table-top display stands. Couldn't media expenses have been reduced by having only one version at each venue? If they constrained foolish ad campaign excesses, more funds would be available for direct client services rather than "administrative overhead."

Before you participate this year, read three reports posted on the Internet at www.accountabilityproject.com/aids-to-riesindex.html. ("AIDS Walk community grants process negated," a Bay Area Reporter March 26, 1998 article; Problems at the SF AIDS Foundation; and the Dirty Money Trail of SF AIDS Walk '97). Many smaller AIDS organizations depend on fair allocations of the AIDS Walk funds for a significant portion of their budgets. It has become very difficult for smaller organizations to raise money in the community because of the larger, more publicized AIDS Walk. The

three reports address deceptive and misleading fundraising practices by SFAF, great secrecy in the allocation process, and fund diversion from the Bay Area to Washington, D.C.

Also read my report on SFAF's current "Assumptions" media campaign at the same URL; it outlines a nine-month, \$340,846 media campaign full of questionable media excesses and shows SFAF incapable of holding media advertising expenses in check.

Of the \$3.7 million raised in AIDS Walk 1997, SFAF kept \$1.6 million and only distributed \$925,059 to AIDS Walk beneficiaries; of the amount distributed, fully one-third went to SFAF's four "partners." In 1997, administrative overhead costs, including media advertising, were \$875,000. Can SFAF staff not get a grip on media expenses?

Of the 33 AIDS Walk 1998 beneficiaries, 49 percent of funds distributed went to four agencies closely affiliated with SFAF: the foundation's own HIV Prevention Project, Project Inform, Shanti, and the UCSF AIDS Health Project (up from 25 percent in 1996, albeit to three of the same agencies, excluding Project Inform). When SFAF reported a \$200,000 surplus from AIDS Walk 1998, the B.A.R. inquired why the surplus couldn't fund the Latino/a Vida program SFAF eliminated a week after the 1998 Walk; suddenly the surplus shrank by half once the B.A.R. questioned SFAF's accountability.

AIDS Walk 1998 beneficiaries included four agencies for needle exchange programs, up from two agencies in 1997; the 1998 amount distributed for needle exchange increased \$221,500 to \$387,500 (34 percent of total grants awarded in 1998), up

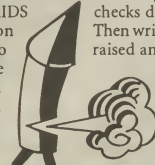
from 1997's \$166,000 (which represented only 18 percent of 1997's total grants). But the surge in needle exchange funding is more for increased needle exchange advocacy (read: lobbying) than for actual needles.

If you do participate, do not have your sponsors write checks endorsed to either SFAF or AIDS Walk SF (AWSF). Rather, have them endorse checks in your name or that of the agency(s) you pick, and send the checks directly to the agency, not to SFAF. Then write SFAF to tell them how much you raised and who you donated it to, and the reasons why you bypassed them as middlemen; also write the agency you chose and tell them your donation bypassed the AIDS Walk machine. Finally, write SFAF Board Chair Lonnie Payne in care of SFAF and tell him you will continue bypassing SFAF at future events until they become fully accountable to the public and until they get a grip on excessive media campaign expenses.

If you do not participate, write SFAF, particularly Mr. Payne and Pat Christen, executive director, to tell them "I didn't walk, because ..." and give reasons why you boycotted the walk. In particular, if you choose not to walk because of the ongoing controversy over bloated management salaries, particularly Ms. Christen's outrageous \$200,000-plus annual salary, tell them so!

I will walk - in memory of my 14-year partner, Carl. Funds I raise will go directly to one of the 36 beneficiaries (other than SFAF's "partners" listed above). ▼

Patrick Monette-Shaw is not affiliated with any community organization.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Those most in need not helped

Mark Leno's proposed affordable housing legislation doesn't include the group most in need of help: those who make under \$40,000 a year. What happens to them? They are the folks most at risk of becoming homeless and/or displaced from the city. It is hard to imagine proposed affordable housing legislation that does not start with providing for them.

It is unfortunate that the group who put this legislation together didn't include tenant activists who have been advocating for affordable housing for years. It is also disappointing that this legislation is being put forward by Leno, a supervisor who did not support Tom Ammiano's living wage legislation, which would have given low-paid workers at companies that contract with the city more of a chance to afford living here.

We desperately need legislation that helps people who make under \$40,000 survive in what is the most expensive city in the country. This is obviously not it. We hope that the Board of Supervisors will amend this legislation to provide for those who need it the most.

Tommi Avicelli Mecca
Robert Haaland
San Francisco

New column needed

The anti-science lies about AIDS continue, fueling the profits of the drug industry, with the refusal of a press that should care – the gay press – to open its pages to serious discussion of the problems with the HIV theory and with the AIDS drugs. It is long overdue that the gay press have a regular column by ACT UP/San Francisco to explain its views so we have a basis for comparison. Currently, we have to look elsewhere for information as the gay press, for the most part, acts as a promotional for the drug companies and the AIDS industry, commonly known as the AIDS charity rackets. Considering that the drug companies and the doctors promoting AZT and protease inhibitors are faced with lawsuits for the death, paralysis, humpback, liver disease, diabetes, and other serious medical problems caused by their drugs, it is long overdue that we have responsible journalism, and that means presenting the anti-drug company point of view.

The U.S. is a country which has had many drug scandals, such as the Thalidomide scandal, causing serious deformities and deaths. The soldiers who have come home from the U.S. profiteering wars against people of the world with Agent Orange poisoning and Gulf War syndrome were told by the U.S. government that they were crazy, until the protest grew so loud and the evidence of chemical and biological poisoning so great that the U.S. government had to stop lying, but they still have not received sufficient compensation. The victims of nuclear radiation and depleted uranium, both civilian and military, by the U.S. government, were not recognized as such at the beginning of the criminal nuclear industry, and now it is too late to save most of their lives, if they are still alive. The U.S. still denies depleted uranium thrown on Iraq and Yugoslavia causes harm.

No one needs markers for venereal disease as the cause and cures are well-known. It is also well-known that intravenous drugs, blood transfusions, and malnutrition cause immune deficiency. We who are atheists learned long ago to question the party line and to support serious scientific investigation, which necessarily means rejecting the profit motive. I hope to see a column by ACT UP/SF in your newspaper soon.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Lee Heller wonders why we don't have a column by ACT UP/SF? Here's why...]

Remedy for suffering?

Jeff Getty's July 6 drug-induced Survive AIDS rant ["A PWA's quest for new treatment flops"] suggests he is suffering from an advanced case of pharmacopsy-chomegalomania.

For his comfort and for the safety of the gay community around him, the only appropriate course of treatment is immediate suicide.

David Pasquarelli
ACT UP/San Francisco

How rap music affects you

Whereas most of us never have to (or care to) listen to rap music and be confronted by mostly gun-toting violence promoting anti-gay racist (most are proud of hating whites) lyrics, consider how it does affect us. Imagine how many young, impressionable kids watch and are susceptible to this kind of music.

While flipping channels, I often land on MTV (yes, me, a 55-year-old man). A couple of weeks ago I came upon the top 10 (a.k.a. *TRL*, *Total Request Live*). The number two song was by Eminem, a young white rapper who tries his damndest to be a "bad" black man. This song (if you can call rap singing) was extremely anti-gay, even using the "F" (faggot) word. Here's the worst part; later I was watching an MTV news pro-

gram and Kurt Loder was interviewing Eminem and asked, "Don't you think this is homophobic?" Eminem answered, "Oh I have nothing against gay people ... 'faggot' is just a term for someone acting uncool." Uh, yeah, and this kid is making millions and exposing hate to very susceptible kids. The biggest deal is, when confronted with it, he acts like, oh no, that isn't what it means at all.

This is hate pure and simple, and at our expense. By the way, it's funny, 98 percent of the female rappers never talk about violence, hate, drugs, or guns.

Larry F. Fisher
San Francisco

First flag sighting

The first gay rainbow flag was at the 1973, not 1978, gay parade ("Blast from the past," June 22). As co-chairperson of that event, I may have the only color pictures of the event and the parade, plus articles from the old *Berkeley Barb*, *Advocate*, *Sentinel*, etc. And the event eventually ended at Golden Gate Park.

Steve Ginsburg
Calpella, California

Republicans should resign

The American public should urge the resignation of almost every Republican for:

- 1) Treason: One nuclear submarine could destroy any country on Earth before the Reagan presidency. Yet the Republicans still spent trillions of dollars of the national wealth on defense. They have continued to spend trillions more after the Cold War ended in 1991.
- 2) Bribery: Republicans have received billions of dollars in explicit or implicit bribes from defense contractors, tobacco companies, billionaires, polluters, and the National Rifle Association.
- 3) Other high crimes and misdemeanors: Republicans made the U.S. the largest debtor nation in world history, consistently opposing raising the minimum wage, and regularly oppose funds for education, the environment, and health care.

Tom Kenny
Oakland, California

Smokefree project says 'Thanks'

I would like to acknowledge everyone who has supported the California Lavender Smokefree Project over the last five years. We have built a strong statewide structure of "resource teams," with the help of organizations like the Last Drag, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, San Francisco Pride, the Tobacco Free Project, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, and many other organizations and individuals. The teams, made up of volunteers and representatives from various organizations, identified and developed strategies to counter the tobacco industry's insidious targeting of our community.

Although the project, in its current form, ended June 30, the work of the project will be carried on by many of these partners. Watch for continuing efforts across California to bring the high LGBT smoking rates down and to keep the tobacco industry from buying its way into our organizations, events, and publications. As new funding becomes available from the state, we hope that other organizations will apply and invest that money into the health of our community. Thank you to everyone who understands that the LGBT community has suffered enough. We will continue to fight for our health and freedom.

Jamie Peta
Program Coordinator
California Lavender Smokefree Project

No empathy for Rosenkrantz

You seem to avoid any criticism of Robert Rosenkrantz, like it's almost "unpatriotic" to be against another gay person – even if he's a murderer ("Parole board panel orders Robert Rosenkrantz freed," July 6).

And that is what bothers me about your coverage of the ongoing Robert Rosenkrantz parole drama.

I feel sick every time I read about this guy. He shot a 17-year-old classmate 10 times with a semi-automatic gun and people are trying to get him released from prison.

I know, the kid who died was a basher and an asshole and should have gone to jail for beating up Rosenkrantz. He might have been a fucked up closet case or something. He obviously was a problem for people in that community and something should have been done, even if it meant putting him in jail for a while.

But, Rosenkrantz erased this kid's life. Now, he's getting offers for employment while still in prison, and he's even planning on getting a nose-job after he gets out. How nice for him.

He's being treated like a celebrity, as if he has done something really wonderful.

next page ►

AN EARTH-BASED APPROACH TO PSYCHOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL HEALING



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I have read more than once the rationalization for what he did. He was despondent. His parents had thrown him out and he was living in his car. I've even heard Rosenkrantz explain that someone in law enforcement had said that, had Rosenkrantz shot his basher during the attack, it would have been self-defense.

Well, duh! But he didn't do that. He waited a week after the attack and went to this kid Redman's house and shot him 10 times.

Next time you decide to present an article on Rosenkrantz, along with the obligatory photo of him, let's see a photo of the Redman kid after he was shot with that semi-automatic. Maybe that will put things in perspective.

Don't forget what he did. I don't care if he has been a model prisoner. I don't care if he has gotten two degrees in prison. I don't care if the victim's grandmother likes Rosenkrantz. He's a murderer.

I can't understand why this guy is getting support from Carole Migden and other people from our community.

Maybe I'm just frustrated that, despite never having killed anyone, I don't have job offers coming in the way Rosenkrantz does.

Steve Weller
San Francisco

[Ed Walsh responds: No one, including Rosenkrantz, condones the killing. But a jury found him guilty of second-, not first-degree murder. The issue now is whether he is unfairly being denied parole, as the Superior Court and the Court of Appeals emphatically ruled. On the other side, as we reported last week, the deputy district attorney who prosecuted the case argues Rosenkrantz remains a threat to society and deserves to spend more time locked up.]

Those hungry ASOs

AIDS organizations seem to be digging their own grave here lately. Their desperation is showing not unlike the nose on Pinocchio's face. False and insupportable claims about HIV infection, which is nothing new. But their timing is particularly bad, i.e., AIDS conference in Durban and Ryan White CARE Act issue. Even to mainstream AIDS believers this behavior is apparent and embarrassing. Please, only the facts. Then again, if the facts about HIV/AIDS were made public, there would be no more AIDS and therefore no need for money hungry AIDS organizations. And all those gay magazines would be reduced to two pages of "body rub" and "male escort" ads.

Greg Drolette
Los Angeles, California

Dump the drag queens

In the June 22 article "Searching for gay genes," Sven Boichlandt is quoted as saying, "... nobody has a clue about sexuality from a biological point of view." I would laugh if that statement wasn't so pathetic. Here we have a biologist who apparently has never bothered to read the research papers.

Biological research has now amassed enough information to clearly show that homosexual behavior is a modified form of dominance conflict and occurs in the most masculine males and in the most feminine females. It evolved with the more advanced social species found it more advantageous to form alliances between members of the same sex rather than having them waste their energy fighting. For those who wish to study the biology of homosexuality, let me suggest the studies of Bruce Bagemihl, Frans De Waal, and Takayoshi Kano as a start.

Unfortunately, dominance is still poorly understood, however, it appears to be inherited from the mother. The reproductive function of dominance among males is not to assure that the most dominant male mates (in fact, that can sometimes reduce genetic variation) but to prevent the degenerate males from mating. And, this is exactly what terrifies the homophobes.

The belief that homosexual men were effeminate arose in the neolithic fertility cults which confused homosexuality with transsexualism and made homosexual men wear women's clothing.

If you wonder why the biologists who do this research are being so cautious about publicizing such findings, just consider how socially explosive these biological principles are. Regardless of their research, biologists are much too afraid of the right-wing conservatives to publish conclusions that suggest that homosexuals are normal and it is the homophobes who are biological degenerates.

It's up to us. If we really want to display gay pride and intimidate the homophobes, dump the drag queens and bring out the hunks in leather.

Bruce A. Hawkins
Phoenix, Arizona

A cure looking for a disease

Bob Roehr (June 22) is damn right that Szabo and Short's call for circumcision to prevent HIV infection

is "provocative." It ignores the very large number of circumcised men who have died of AIDS.

He and they quote with relish the statistic that none of a group of 50 circumcised men was infected with HIV during the course of a 30-month study in Uganda. They fail to mention that another 29 were not included because they were already infected before it began.

Circumcision is a cure that has been looking for a disease for 150 years now. (You'll find a list of 275 "reasons" for circumcision at www.circumstitions.com/Stitions.html.) From masturbation through tuberculosis, epilepsy, club foot, paralysis, STDs, UTIs, and cancer, AIDS is now the disease du jour. Accordingly, certain people have been desperately looking for a connection. When they think they've found one, they publish, though each study has its own flaws. Circumcision is never carried out in a social vacuum, and the culture and sexual customs connected with it always affect the transmission of disease.

Promoting the removal of part of the male genitals to prevent HIV transmission will inevitably undermine real safe-sex campaigns, and it does nothing to protect women, but one wonders if those people really care about that.

Hugh Young
Pukerua Bay, New Zealand

More on circumcision

Twice this year the B.A.R. has run news stories containing the sensational claim that male circumcision somehow "protects" a man against HIV. Before anyone in the Bay Area gay community becomes convinced that normal male anatomy is somehow dangerous, it's wise to consider the facts.

The United States is the only remaining country on Earth that circumcises most baby boys for "medical" reasons. The practice has been actively discouraged and phased out by the medical profession in those few countries (all English-speaking, by no coincidence) that ever carried out this bizarre practice: Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, in that order.

The claim that circumcision protects against AIDS is not surprising. Since the turn of the 20th century, just about every dreaded disease of the day has been blamed on the normal, intact penis. Not one of them has actually proven in the long run to be more of a risk in intact men or boys.

Is it any wonder that the current crop of researchers excitedly announcing a foreskin-HIV causal effect are all circumcised males from the three countries that have practiced this mutilation most widely in the last two generations: the U.S., Canada, and Australia? They have a vested interest in rationalizing what was done to them. In the countries that make up the 85 percent of the world that does not circumcise males (including all of Europe, South America and the vast majority of Asia), doctors and the public alike realize that linking disease to the foreskin is as stupid as linking disease to intact female sexual organs.

The truth is very different from what these articles suggest. The foreskin is not delicate tissue; it is a highly resilient barrier against infection like every other insulative mucosal surface of the body, such as the mouth and the vagina. Indeed, it is the circumcised penis, missing more than half of its normal skin surface (*British Journal of Urology*, 1996), that is much more prone to tearing and injury during sex. The natural lubricating substance of smegma, which is not a secretion at all but is made up of the antiviral and antibacterial residue of squamous cells (as it is in women, who produces twice as much), helps protect the male body from disease. Lysozymes, present in smegma and on the normal foreskin, have been shown to stop HIV replication. And medical research published last year concluded that intact, healthy mucosal tissue appears to be an absolute barrier against certain viruses, including HIV. The dried, damaged tissue of the circumcised penis lacks this antiviral ability.

The researchers claiming the circumcised penis protects better than the whole penis had to go to Africa to find any evidence to support their ideas. And even there, they overlooked highly relevant religious, educational, and socioeconomic differences before concluding that circumcised men had lower HIV risk. Why are these researchers so afraid of comparing the United States to Western Europe? The World Health Organization compares sexual practices among heterosexuals and homosexuals in various countries and concludes that Americans have more than four times the HIV transmission rate via intercourse compared with Europeans. The major difference in cultures? Americans circumcise.

Gay men have played a pivotal role in getting the United States to re-examine its mania of cutting off the ends of boys' penises, with the result that the U.S. circumcision rate has fallen from 90 percent to under 60 percent in 30 years.

The Greek chorus of voices you hear warning of dire health consequences if Americans abandon their cherished circumcision is the last gasp of a generation of cut, white men who want the world to look (lack) like them.

Martin Novoa
San Francisco

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POLITICS

Bradley to support Gore

by Wayne Friday

Onetime Democratic presidential hopeful **Bill Bradley**, a former U.S. Senator from New Jersey, is expected to officially endorse Vice President **Al Gore** for president when he appears at a campaign rally today (Thursday, July 13) in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Today's scheduled "unity event" at which Bradley will reportedly use the "endorse" word, marks the first joint appearance of the former rivals since Bradley, having failed to win a single Democratic primary, dropped out of the presidential contest more than four months ago. Gore campaign officials have been working hard at landing Bradley's formal endorsement, and aides to Bradley now say their man is "looking forward to appearing with our nominee" and plans to campaign for the vice president to "ensure that the Democrats keep control of the White House" and hopefully, win control of Congress in November.

When Bradley officially ended his quest for the Democratic Party nomination on March 9, the bitterness between the two camps was well known and both sides accused the other of using negative attacks during the Democratic primaries.

Those close to both Gore and Bradley, however, were saying this week that while Bradley had previously promised to support the vice president in November, one source close to Bradley said the former candidate is now "showing real enthusiasm" for the Gore candidacy and today's joint appearance in Wisconsin is expected to go a long way toward presenting a united Democratic Party against Republican **George W. Bush** in November.

Democratic convention officials also have confirmed that Gore personally made sure that the former New Jersey senator would be invited to speak during prime time at the upcoming con-fab in Los Angeles. Bradley has reportedly "eagerly" accepted the invitation, will "enthusiastically" endorse the Gore candidacy, and is expected to campaign alongside Gore and his running mate "whenever asked" right up until the November election. One former Bradley campaign aide told reporters this week that "sure, there was a tough primary campaign, but that's in the past and our goal must now be to defeat Bush and the Republicans."

Meanwhile, the Democrats this week released a draft of the platform their candidate will be running on in November that strictly articulates the centrist "new Democratic" view of their nominee, Gore, but also offers concessions to liberals on several major issues, including trade, the death penalty, abortion, and gay rights. The Democrat's draft committee, headed by North Carolina Governor **Jim Hunt** and co-chairs **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**, the lieutenant governor of Maryland, and Minneapolis Mayor **Sharon Sayles Belton**, that city's first African American mayor, called for open trade, a point of contention within the party and among big labor, and continued



Bill Bradley is set to endorse Al Gore.

support for the death penalty, which is in line with Gore's personal view on the subject, but added an amendment to the death penalty in the party platform that calls for DNA evidence to be used when appropriate and for efforts to ensure defendants have effective legal counsel, which is also in line with Gore's view.

Clearly, the platform committee was making an attempt to shake a soft-on-crime image that Republicans have accused them of for years. Democratic platform committee members were quick to

point out that Bush heads a state that has sent more than 135 people to their execution since becoming governor five years ago, the highest number of executions of any state in the country. In another section of the platform, with the centrist-sounding "Valuing our Families" title, the Democrats will say that the party "supports the full inclusion of gay and lesbians in the families of a nation."

Finally, the Democratic platform strongly reaffirms the party's commitment to abortion rights. These are only the highlights of the entire platform that will be presented to the Democratic National Convention to be held August 14-17 in Los Angeles, but it is one that Vice President Gore's people have reportedly approved and that they say their nominee will be proud to run on. Indeed, those presenting the platform this week made note of where they will differ from the expected Republican-Bush platform — particularly on the hot-button issues of strongly supporting gay rights and abortion, as well as strong gun control legislation and campaign finance reform. "Vice President Gore is proud to run on these issues — you certainly won't see the Republicans and their candidate, George W. Bush, embracing these particular issues," a Gore campaign official said in Nashville this week.

Politics and people

Few things seem to get me quite as much negative mail as my occasional reference to the "Green Man" ("Green" as in the Green Party, not in reference to his being a greenback-carrying multimillionaire) **Ralph Nader**. Whenever the suggestion is made here that Nader's anticipated 5 to 8 percent of the vote in November could possibly take enough votes from Democrat Al Gore to tip the election to Republican

George W. Bush, the Gore-haters (and, I suspect, really Bush fans) come out of the woodwork with letters, and of course, the occasional anonymous phone calls insisting there is not a bit of difference between "tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum" Gore and Bush, and that a throwaway vote for Nader actually somehow becomes a true "reform" vote.

Okay, to be sure, I could quickly think of a preferred candidate for president than Gore, but Bush certainly isn't the one. Some, I expect, are sincere in making an argument that there really isn't any difference between electing Gore or Bush. I disagree, since one of the areas the election does make a real difference is in the makeup of the next U. S. Supreme Court. Think about it. Last month's momentous late-term abortion rights decision, decided by a bare 5-4 margin, gives us at least a hint of what will happen if Bush is elected and gets the chance to make even one or more likely two, possibly even three, appointments to the high court. Again, think about what will happen once Bush gets the chance to appoint archconservative justices like **Clarence Thomas** or **Antonin Scalia** — abortion rights gone! And don't even think about gay rights — gone! And need I remind you that Bush was recently quoted on the TomPaine.com Web site as saying that Thomas and Scalia are "exactly" the types of justices he plants to appoint should he become president.

Those Democrats who stubbornly refuse to face the truth and cast their throwaway votes for the Green Party on November 7 will have only themselves (and Ralph Nader) to blame if Bush is the president-elect on November 8.

Meanwhile, there are apparently still some who actually think **Pat Buchanan**, the homophobic, anti-Semitic, Republican-turned Reform candidate could still lose the Reform Party nomination to challenger **John Hagelin**, a liberal physicist who has the endorsement of **Jim Mangia**, the openly gay national secretary of the Reform Party. The Reform Party nominee will be chosen in a national primary that started last week and ends on August 9.

Los Angeles' lesbian City Councilmember **Jackie Goldberg**, not the most popular politico in that city, but headed for a sure seat in the Assembly, was on the losing end of a City Council vote last week that would have designated the city's Pershing Square as the official protest site for the upcoming Democratic convention. The area is very close to the Staples Center con-

page 21 ►

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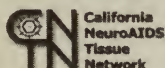
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Wall Street Journal plays divisive politics

compiled by GLAAD

In a column appearing in the July 6 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, writer Heather MacDonald suggests that attempts to protest the Boy Scouts' exclusionary policy against gays — a policy upheld two weeks ago by a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court — will victimize "poor, minority children." "If financial and institutional support for the Scouts dries up, what will urban children lose?" MacDonald asks. "Perhaps their best hope for conquering their circumstances. Scouting teaches a set of values rare anywhere today, but especially in troubled inner-city neighborhoods — perseverance, personal responsibility and self-discipline."

MacDonald fails to acknowledge that the same boys who are learning these inarguably important values also are being taught that prejudice and discrimination against gay people is admirable. Just as damaging is the message that young, gay, closeted Scouts must lie about who they are in order to be accepted. Clearly, these are not the values most parents want instilled in their children. Yet by choosing to publicly advocate discrimination, the Scouts' national leadership has sent a dangerous, divisive message to its youth that runs counter to their best interests.

MacDonald also argues that if corporations pull funding from the Scouts, it will make it increasingly difficult to recruit Scout leaders. This is ironic, given that the organization's discrimination policy against gays has already shrunk the pool of qualified Scout leaders. Likewise, it is ironic that the Scouts is now on the record condemning those who demonstrate the bravery, courage and honesty necessary to come out of the closet — the very qualities scouting seeks to instill.

MacDonald's piece represents divisive politics at its worst, attempting to divide people by race, class, and sexual orientation in an effort to pit them against one another. Let the *Wall Street Journal* know that you expect a more objective summation of the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Boy Scouts. Contact Max Boot, Editorial Page Editor, the *Wall Street Journal*, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281-1003; fax: (212) 416-2658; e-mail: letter.editor@edit.wsj.com.

Deconstructing Boy Scouts' bigotry

Los Angeles Times contributing editor and nationally syndicated columnist Robert Scheer issued a scathing critique of the Boy Scouts anti-gay advocacy on July 4, characterizing the Scouts' policy of exclusion as hateful politics that "punishes boys for the crime of being born different."

Scheer's column suggests that in order to argue its case against James Dale, the Eagle Scout who was ejected from his Scout leader position when he came out of the closet, the Scouts' leaders and lawyers had to explicitly state that one of the aims of its organization is to encourage anti-gay prejudice.

"In all his Scouting activity, Dale never acted in a way that was less than exemplary. He was ejected from the Scouts not for a single failure of merit but rather for an act of considerable courage and honesty when he joined a college gay student group," Scheer writes. "The BSA made clear in its pleading before the court that the lesson it wants to teach is that people like Dale are immoral, no matter their unblemished records of good works in the organization."

"In pursuing this case," Scheer writes, "the Scouts, for the first time in its history, clearly established the loathsome message that all gay people, even the gay surgeon or firefighter who might save your life, or the gay senior who needs assistance walking across the street, are to be condemned by good Scouts as 'unclean' and 'immoral.'"

Scheer's column is a forceful, persuasive argument questioning support for the Scouts now that the organization has chosen bigotry against gays as one of its defining principles. Please thank Robert Scheer and the *Los Angeles Times* for this important column.

Contact Janet Clayton, Editorial Page Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; fax: (213) 237-4712; e-mail: letters@latimes.com.

Contact Robert Scheer, Contributing Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; e-mail: robert.scheer@latimes.com.

Lesbian and gay seniors in the Miami Herald

As the baby boomers enter into their 50s, the challenges of aging and retirement continue to garner increasing media visibility. However, the aging lesbian and gay community is largely invisible in this coverage. On July 2, the *Miami Herald* published an excellent article exploring the problems and opportunities facing lesbian and gay seniors and the innovative solutions many of them have devised to stay active and build friendships within their community.

"Growing Old Among Friends," by Johnny Diaz and Shari Rudavsky, draws on interviews with a diverse group of lesbian and gay seniors (and seniors-to-be), allowing them to tell their stories in their own voices and deftly linking their common experiences. Among those interviewed: Edda Cimino, a 70-year-old for-

mer teacher and recent co-chairwoman of the South Florida chapter of GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network; Bill Laing, a psychology professor who, after retiring, built a retirement community for lesbians and gay men in Sarasota, New York; John Dorr, a resident in Laing's community who, after the death of his partner, began offering assisted living services to his next door neighbors; Jeffrey Dillon and John DeLeo, partners who are currently developing a 320-unit assisted care high-rise in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Randi Adler, who works through the Jewish Family Center of Greater Miami to help seniors who are fearful of coming out; and many others. Their stories, their fears, their independence, and their compassion reflect the depth of experience in this often underappreciated part of our community.

Diaz and Rudavsky's interviews also reference several important groups for lesbian and gay seniors, including the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons, Pride Senior Network, Senior Action in a Gay Environment, Golden Threads — a support group for lesbians over 50, and Silver Strands — an online group for gay men over 50.

For more information regarding lesbian and gay seniors, please visit: Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons: www.gaylesbianretiring.org; Senior Action in a Gay Environment: www.sageusa.org; Pride Senior Network: www.pridesenior.org; Golden Threads: <http://members.aol.com/goldentred/index.htm>.

Diaz and Rudavsky do a tremendous service by promoting visibility of gay and lesbian seniors, the resources available to them, and the rich history and future of this important but often overlooked group. Please thank the *Miami Herald* for this groundbreaking feature.

Contact Larry Olmstead, Managing Editor, the *Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693; e-mail: herald-Ed@herald.com.

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Breast Cancer

◀ page 2

federal level. In coalition with women's health and environmental organizations, BCA also pushed for answers that will lead to better prevention methods and a cure of the most common cancer in women.

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COMMENTARY

Scouts' rights – and ours

by Dale Carpenter

When the Supreme Court held that the Boy Scouts of America may exclude openly gay scoutmasters, many gay civil rights advocates howled. One writer said the result "lent legitimacy to the bigotry of ... institutions all over America." That's one way to describe the function of the First Amendment. I prefer to think of it as something free people should cherish.

The First Amendment protects people, like me, who say and believe good things. It also protects people, like the BSA, who say and believe some bad things. It guarantees freedom of speech, and the concomitant freedom to choose your friends and associates in order to promote your views. It doesn't say, "You have freedom of speech – unless a majority of a legislature in some state can be persuaded otherwise." It doesn't "lend legitimacy" to any belief. Only we, as a people, can do that, through our own words and actions.

Why would we protect a freedom to say and believe bad things? It's not because there's no difference between saying and believing bad things and saying and believing good things. One reason we protect people who say and believe bad things is that we're not very confident about our ability to distinguish between good things and bad things for all time. We should pause when we reflect that, as a Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote, "time has upset many fighting faiths." Ideas once thought unassailable are now heretical.

Here's an example: New Jersey once had a law forbidding private, consensual gay sex. It was considered a good thing. But because of the First Amendment, those who disagreed were able to persuade New Jersey that the law was wrong. Now the old state sodomy law is considered bad, even terrible.

In fact, New Jersey has stood the old sodomy law on its head, forbidding discrimination against the very people it was once confident were criminals. It is that anti-discrimination law that brought

the Scouts to the Supreme Court.

The BSA disagrees with New Jersey's new, improved view of gays. It also disagrees with New Jersey's egalitarian views about females and atheists because it doesn't welcome them, either.

If the Constitution is to protect us, it must protect people we don't like, too.

There's self-interest in this high-minded devotion to the BSA's right to discriminate against us.

In the past century, democratic majorities have given us sodomy laws, a ban on military service, gay marriage bans, anti-gay adoption laws and much else.

With a nod from those same majorities, the police have used their power to raid gay bars, censor gay publications, and harass law-abiding citizens for dressing the wrong way.

Gay equality advocates, as we have learned repeatedly from painful experience, are not often in firm control of the outcomes of democratic decision making. We may have our way today, but tomorrow the barbarians will be back at the gates pressing in.

The remedy for this uncertainty is to withdraw from democratic decision makers certain spheres of private life they have no business regulating. So commercial establishments, as public accommodations that have always been regulated by law, may properly be told not to discriminate. But non-commercial private membership organizations – like the BSA, or the Human Rights Campaign, or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force – should be allowed to further their missions as they see fit without state interference.

What's most culturally interesting about the case is that the BSA needed constitutional protection from the proponents of gay equality. The constitutional shoe is on the other foot. It's not gays seeking protection from raiding police officers now; it's homophobes seeking protection from raiding gay rights laws.

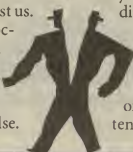
We should never confuse having a right with what is right,

however. People should have the right to burn an American flag as political protest, but I don't think it's ever right to do so. The BSA may have a right to discriminate against gays, but that does not make their discrimination right.

As in the controversy over Dr. Laura, it's the role of conscientious people to expose bigotry. In fact, it's their right to do so. Just as we may urge sponsors not to subsidize a television program we think is wrong, we may urge local governments and charities not to sponsor a private membership organization that has fought tenaciously to discriminate against us.

In the short run, the BSA won't likely fold under such pressure. The group's membership is up and withdrawing sponsors have so far been replaced by new ones. There are probably still more parents out there who would prefer BSA to keep its anti-gay policy because they fear their children will be molested by gay scoutmasters than there are parents who think that fear is irrational and don't want their children to be taught to prejudice.

But, as even the supposedly anti-gay majority Supreme Court decision recognizes, "the public perception of homosexuality in this country has changed" in the direction of "greater societal acceptance." If we keep exercising our rights, our First Amendment rights, to move the country our way, the BSA won't be turning to courts to keep us out – they'll be turning to us to keep them around. ▽



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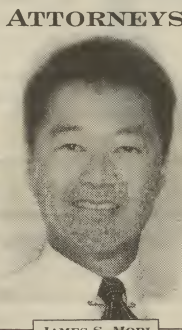
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Feel like you need to hit the gym every day? Confused about being a femme top or butch bottom? What are the pressures of being super macho and masculine for gay and bi men? Meet other guys and explore what it means to be a "man" and how that compares to being a queer man.

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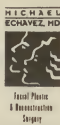
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Saved by the brawl

by Jane Warner

3 900 block of 18th Street, July 8, 2:20 a.m.: A resident called police after waking to the sound of a fight in front of his house. Police detained two brawlers who told police that they had just arrived from Texas three weeks ago and were living in their car together. The men had been drinking together at a nearby bar and started to fight after an older man gave one of them \$20 for a date. The resident told police he heard one of the men tell the other, "I could kill you and no one would ever know." Due to their cohabitation, one of the men was arrested for domestic violence. Booked was David Cruz, 31.

Boogie nights

Diamond and 19th, July 2, 2 a.m.: A man who was walking on Diamond near 19th Street met three other men who asked him if he wanted to party in their van. The man agreed, but once inside the van, one of the men started to fondle him while others watched. The victim became uncomfortable and asked to be let out of the van. The men let him out, but the man soon noticed that his wallet was missing. The victim walked to the corner and told police officers what had happened. The officers approached the van and questioned the men inside, but the fondling man, suspected of taking the wallet, was gone. The suspect is described as Hispanic, 20 years old, 5 feet 10

inches tall, wearing a black jacket, baggy pants, and going by the name "Rocky."

Santa claws

Beck's Motor Lodge, 2222 Market Street, July 9, 12:15 a.m.:

Motel staff called police after finding a man on top of their roof babbling incoherently and carrying a pair of scissors. Responding police found the man on the second floor rocking back and forth and talking to himself. Officers were able to take him into custody without incident, and found his possession two small bags of what appeared to be methamphetamine. A computer checked revealed the man had been arrested several times in the Castro. Booked for narcotics possession and trespassing was Andre Maximilian, 33.

Twinkle tows

With the increase of tourists in San Francisco during the summer months, frequent calls to police are from people who claim their car was stolen. More often than not, a quick drive around the block will locate the missing car, or, drivers simply forgot to read the street signs and their car has been towed. Here's what to do if you suspect that your car has been hauled to the land of overpriced metal:

• Call the Department of Parking and Traffic at (415) 553-1239 to confirm that your car has been towed. You'll need to know your license plate number.

• If your car has been towed, go to City Tow at 375 7th Street, at Harrison. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have more than four outstanding parking tickets, you'll need to pay them before your vehicle is released. City Tow can accept these payments.

• If the Police Department has towed your vehicle instead of DPT, you'll need to get a release from them before you can claim it. The release can be obtained at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, one block from City Tow.

• The towing fee is \$130 for most vehicles. The first four hours of "storage" is free. The next 20 hours that your car is locked up cost \$23, and then it is \$28.25 for each additional day. An additional \$17.25 long-term transfer fee accrues after 24 hours. City Tow accepts ATM cards, cash, and most major credit cards.

Warning: After three days at City Tow, the city has the legal right to sell your vehicle. Borrow the money if you must, but get your car out of there. ▼

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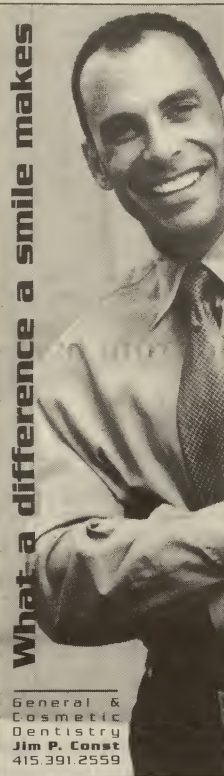


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HIV treatment news from Durban, forum July 19

by Terry Beswick

If it seems that all the news you're getting from the 2000 International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa has been either about that country's president defending his right to question the cause of AIDS, or about the mounting evidence that HIV will virtually wipe out his country, fear not.

"Hear the latest research on HIV care and treatment as presented at the International AIDS Conference," promise organizers of a "community reportback" forum this Wednesday, July 19 from 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the San Francisco Baha'i

Center at 170 Valencia Street.

Co-sponsored by Project Inform and Survive AIDS (formerly ACT UP/Golden Gate), presenters will include Martin Delaney, PI's founding director, and Ben Cheng, a treatment advocate with PI. Breaking findings on new and emerging therapies, strategies, and side effects will be discussed.

The event is free of charge, though donations are encouraged. Light refreshments will be provided, and free child care is available on request. ▼

For more information, call (415) 558-8669, ext. 212, or go to www.projectinform.org.

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★ Policy Update ★

★ Vaccines ★

★ And More! ★

DATE:

Tuesday, July 25th

TIME:

Light refreshments from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Presentationc from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

PLACE:

Palace Hotel

2 New Montgomery Street, Ralston Room
Accessible by MUNI and BART

Sign language interpreted.

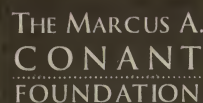
Childcare provided if notified by Friday, July 21st

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Dr. Laura embraces a pro-gay platform ... and nobody notices

by Katie Szymanski

She's bigoted. She's offensive to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders. She's Dr. Laura Schlessinger, and ... wait a minute, is she on our side?

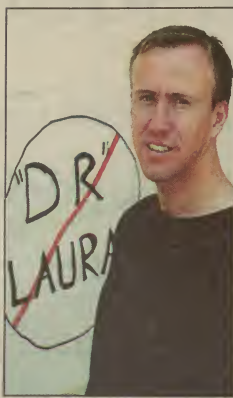
Time and again, LGBT advocates and critics of Schlessinger have used the pseudo-shrink's "biological error" comment as proof of her intolerance. "If you're gay or lesbian, it is a biological error," she has been quoted as saying on her nationally syndicated radio talk show, and of course being labeled a defect is insulting.

But the mainstream LGBT rights movement — a large portion of which holds dear the argument that there is a biological cause for

our queerness — has yet to call Dr. Laura on her blatantly anti-right wing belief that gays are in fact "born that way." If Dr. Laura is calling us "biological" errors, then she is discrediting the ex-gays, invalidating anti-gay terminology like "lifestyle," and embracing the backbone of the pro-gay message that we are all created to be who we are. So why is the religious right by her side, and why, pray tell, have we not yet used her as proof that even bigots are saying "it's not a choice"?

Granted, it's an irrelevant and somewhat insulting argument to begin with (sexuality should be protected regardless of its origins). But considering how many advocates and politicians eat it up,

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StopDrLaura.com's Ryan Clary

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Friday, July 28, 2000

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\$40.00 at the gate

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Redwood Amphitheater welcome begins at 7:30 PM.

Gates open at 8:00 PM. Exclusive use of park begins 9:00 PM.

For more information, visit www.galachoruses.org.



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Put your money where your mouth is

by Katie Szymanski

The Christian right is already doing it, so it's about time we invested in companies that support our beliefs (or at the very least, our equality).

Equal Benefits Advocates — the folks that brought you the successful United Airlines boycott — have announced the development of an investment screen that they hope businesses and nonprofits will implement. The screen contains only the names of companies that have broad-based anti-discrimination policies and domestic partnership policies that give the same benefits to partners of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders that are given to spouses of heterosexuals. There are close to 3,400 companies that meet these gay-friendly requirements, including IBM, Disney, Pacific Bell, United Airlines, and Wells Fargo.

Already, according to EBA, one local nonprofit has agreed to adopt the screen; Project Open Hand's board of directors last month voted only to invest in companies with equal rights and benefits for LGBT employees. The organization, which delivers meals to people with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses and provides meals to seniors in the city, unanimously approved the policy and immediately found a money manager at Paine Webber to implement the screen.

"It makes perfect sense that an organization such as ours, that provides social services to individuals who are frequently targeted for discrimination, ensures that our resources and our donor contributions are not invested with companies that discriminate against their employees," said Tom Nolan, Project Open Hand's executive director.

EBA hopes that Project Open Hand's example will inspire other businesses, nonprofits, and individuals to follow.

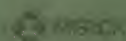
"Just like consumers can speak with their pocketbooks," said EBA's Carol Stuart, "so can investors."

For information on how to implement the new investment screen, call (415) 643-5211. ▼



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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may decrease the effectiveness of CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



CRIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIVAN[®] (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024511

Please read this information before you start taking CRIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIVAN?

CRIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIVAN work?

CRIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIVAN.

CRIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIVAN:

1. **Take CRIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
 2. **Take CRIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
 3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIVAN at any one time.
 4. **Take CRIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
 5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include: dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want) or corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar.
- Do not take CRIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIVAN?

Do not take CRIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

Can CRIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIVAN:

SELDANE [®] (terfenadine)	HISMANAL [®] (astemizole)
VERSED [®] (midazolam)	HALCION [®] (triazolam)
ORAP [®] (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine [®] and Cafergot [®])
PROPULSID [®] (cisapride)	

Taking CRIVAN with the above medications could result in **serious or life-threatening** problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN[®], RIFAMATE[®], RIFATER[®], or RIMACTANE[®].

Taking CRIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIVAN levels and may lead to decreased effectiveness of CRIVAN and other HIV-related drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIVAN include:

RETROVIR [®] (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR [®] (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT [®] (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM [®] /SEPTRA [®] (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN [®] (fluconazole)
BIAXIN [®] (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35 [®] (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET [®] (cimetidine)	Metadone
VIDEX [®] (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIVAN with VIDEX [®] , take them at least one hour apart.	
MYCOBUTIN [®] (rifabutin) — If you take CRIVAN with MYCOBUTIN [®] , your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIVAN.	

NIZORAL[®] (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIVAN with NIZORAL[®], your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
 RESCRIPTOR[®] (delavirdine) — If you take CRIVAN with RESCRIPTOR[®], your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
 SPORANOX[®] (itraconazole) — If you take CRIVAN with SPORANOX[®], your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
 SUSTIVA[®] (efavirenz) — If you take CRIVAN with SUSTIVA[®], your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIVAN.
 Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms.

If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIVAN[®]
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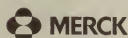
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South Africa

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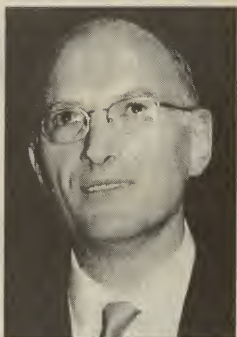
continuing in spite of everything going wrong that could have gone wrong, and it didn't stop it."

"The situation has clearly shifted," said Bill Arnold with the ADAP Working Group in Washington, D.C. "The question is, how far and how fast? How many people will die in the meantime" before the internal debates are finally resolved?

South Africa President Thabo Mbeki marked the official opening Sunday, July 9, with an address to the conference delegates. Some had hoped that Mbeki would make a major policy announcement, or perhaps separate himself from the small faction of dissidents who deny that HIV is the cause of AIDS, several of whom he appointed to a presidential commission earlier this year. Many of the 10,000 conference delegates were disappointed with his speech.

Mbeki focused on extreme poverty as the leading killer both in South Africa and across the continent. "As I listened and heard the whole story told about our own country, it seemed to me that we could not blame everything on a single virus," Mbeki said.

South Africa has an estimated 4.2 million people infected with



Justice Edwin Cameron

HIV. This week's conference is the first to be held in a developing country.

"I was hoping and praying that he would find a way to gracefully back out of this madness," Phill Wilson, an African American AIDS activist from Los Angeles told the local newspaper the *Mercury*. "The house is on fire and Mr. Mbeki is sitting around trying to decide whether it was started by a lighter or a match."

Mbeki took another hit at the July 10 opening plenary session, this time from Justice Edwin Cameron. He is a member of South Africa's highest court, openly gay, and one of the most promi-

nent people in the nation who is open about living with AIDS.

"I exist as a living embodiment of the inequity of drug availability and access in Africa," said Cameron. "On a continent in which 290 million Africans survive on less than one U.S. dollar a day, I can afford monthly medication costs of about U.S. \$400 per month."

He lambasted international agencies, national governments, and the pharmaceutical industry that "have failed us in the quest for accessible treatment."

Cameron said the South African government "has at almost every conceivable turn mismanaged the epidemic" so grievously that since 1998 it has had "the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world." A "cacophony" of studies, groups, and task forces "all have thus far signified pitifully little. To our shame every month 5,000 babies are born, unnecessarily and avoidably, with HIV. Yet we have done nothing."

He compared the moral issues to those of Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa when he said millions will die "because available treatments are denied to those who need them for the sake of aggregating corporate wealth for shareholders who by African standards are already unimaginably affluent." Refusal to act at this point is "genocide." ▼

Leslie Katz

◀ page 1

bers work full-time hours. The pay for supervisors is only \$37,585 per year, and Katz said she can't afford to live on that salary. San Francisco supervisors are among the lowest paid in the state, although voters did approve a modest raise several years ago to the current salary.

"I hope that someday the voters will recognize the tremendous dedication of those that serve on the board and see fit to provide reasonable compensation such that it will not be a body that does not financially represent the city," said Katz. "We do the work of both a city council and a county Board of Supervisors, yet are paid less than any other major county or city in the state."

Katz's accomplishments

Katz, the only lesbian on the board, was appointed in June 1996 by Mayor Willie Brown, and won election in her own right five months later. During her tenure on the board, she said she was proud of many successes.

"I am tremendously proud of my accomplishments ... from equal benefits, to banning ads on

the bay, ... to cementing San Francisco's position as the center of the digital universe, to bicycle enhancements, to banning hardwoods, and yes, even to protecting the quail. I have been personally sued by the radical right for standing up to damaging rhetoric, as well as have negotiated with the archbishop on equal benefits. I have seen significant strides in transit and can even drive around town and point to stop signs that I helped get installed," she said.

Katz also praised many community groups she has worked with on various projects, including the long-stymied queer youth shelter in the Castro, Project Open Hand, and Equal Benefits Advocates, the group responsible for launching the successful boycott against United Airlines when it refused to comply with the equal benefits ordinance. Katz co-authored the landmark legislation with Ammiano and former Supervisor Susan Leal.

Wide open race

More than 20 candidates - most with little or no name recognition - have filed papers intending to run for the District 6 seat; the filing deadline is August 11. As of Tuesday, July 11, yet another candidate entered the race; com-

munity activist and city animal rights commissioner Frederick Hobson announced he's now running. Hobson ran unsuccessfully for the board two years ago, but that was before district elections, which start this year.

Hobson told the B.A.R. that he had endorsed Katz, and now that she wasn't running, he decided to jump into the race.

At least one District 6 candidate was happy Katz dropped out. "I am rather pleased to hear that Leslie Katz will not be running in District 6," said Denise D'Anne, a 25-year resident of the district. "The idea of district elections was to give an opportunity for people living in their own district a chance at being supervisor. The theory is that local people would have more knowledge and sympathy for the needs of residents in their area. The idea of incumbent supervisors running around trying to find a niche in other than their own districts is a perversion of the idea of district elections."

Two incumbent supervisors have moved to reposition themselves for the upcoming election: Supervisors Leland Yee and Amos Brown. Brown's move made headlines when it was revealed he was evicting a senior citizen with a disabled gay son. ▼

Leno housing

◀ page 1

rental housing, as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is available to people who make 60 percent of the median income. That means to qualify as an individual, one would have to make \$30,420 or less a year. For a family of four, the maximum income allowed is \$43,200, or 60 percent of the median income for a family of four in the area. To own a home under Leno's plan, you cannot make more than the median income; again that figure is \$50,700 for an individual and \$72,000 for a family of four.

These income requirements, of course, are directly opposite of what housing activist Robert Haaland had read and heard. Haaland, who told the B.A.R. early on Tues-

day, July 11, that the "percentage of income should come down instead of being stuck in federal paradigm," was relieved to hear the news later that afternoon that Leno's bill "had suddenly changed."

"Cool," said Haaland, who works with the Housing Rights Committee. "It's amazing what a little advocacy will do."

But whether the bill actually changed or was just explained incorrectly is unclear. What is clear is that Haaland and other housing activists are going to be suspicious of affordable housing deals for a long time to come.

Tenant-landlord meltdown

Leno's legislation comes on the heels of a tenant-landlord agreement gone awry that was mediated by Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, a longtime voice in the fight for housing

rights. Ammiano's negotiations fell through when a few of the tenants he was working with thought the agreement was too "middle of the road," even though many housing activists like Haaland supported the agreement for guaranteeing that rent increases would be more gradual and for allowing tenants to apply for hardship.

Leno's legislation is also viewed as "middle of the road," for as Leno himself put it, "We give a little, and we take a little."

Leno's plan does not address the negotiations of the Housing Rights Committee, but rather offers incentives to developers to create affordable housing. First, planning codes would be revised to remove obstacles to building housing. Presently, developers are drawn toward building commercial spaces, but Leno's plan would dismiss au-

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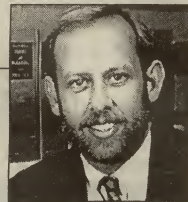
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Former cop blasts effort to block Rosenkrantz parole

by Ed Walsh

The retired Los Angeles County homicide detective who investigated the case against Robert Rosenkrantz, the gay man who killed his basher, is speaking out against a renewed effort to block his parole.

"Why has Robert been made the poster child for someone that should be locked up forever?" said homicide veteran William McComas who first met Rosenkrantz when he arrested him in 1985. "There are a lot of people who should be locked up forever."

"He wouldn't commit any crime if he gets out."

McComas has come under criticism from his former colleagues for supporting the parole of a convicted murderer but he said he felt it was important to take a stand.

"It's a matter of fairness," McComas told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He shouldn't be singled out and made an example of."

A three-member panel of the Board of Prison Terms ordered parole for Rosenkrantz at the conclusion of a June 30 hearing. The full board has 60 days to finalize the order before it goes to Governor Gray Davis. He has until September 30 to decide whether to block Rosenkrantz's parole again. Davis has vowed to stop the parole of convicted killers.

Although no one had opposed Rosenkrantz's parole at previous hearings, three people wrote letters opposing it at the June 30 hearing. They included McComas's former police partner, an official with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, and A. Lawrence Redman, the father of the victim, Steve Redman. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office also announced it was reversing its previous unusual and controversial stance of endorsing Rosenkrantz's parole.

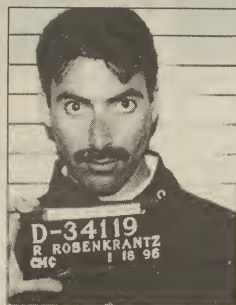
Rosenkrantz's attorney, Rowan Klein, has accused Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Larry Diamond of spearheading an effort to thwart Rosenkrantz's parole. It's a charge Diamond denies.

Diamond prosecuted the original case in 1985. Diamond told the *B.A.R.* he believed the circumstances of Rosenkrantz's crime warranted a first-degree murder conviction. The jury found Rosenkrantz guilty of second-degree murder.

McComas believes the jury was right.

"I think it was a just verdict when you take the totality of the circumstances and all the mitigating circumstances," he said.

Rosenkrantz was 18 in 1985 when 17-year-old Steve Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a high school graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz at his parents' beach house yelling "get the fuck out of here, you faggots." Rosenkrantz hid his nose broken when Redman hit him with a flashlight and he burned his hand as he wrestled a stun gun away from his brother. Redman later outed Rosenkrantz to his father. Rosenkrantz left home after arguing with his father and said he was reduced to living out of his car. He said he was despondent when he confronted Redman a week after



Robert Rosenkrantz in 1996.

the attack outside Redman's Calabasas condominium. According to Rosenkrantz's testimony, he demanded Redman take back his outing as he pointed a semiautomatic rifle at his car. Redman refused. The two argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times.

McComas said Rosenkrantz's crime should be considered in its context.

"Robert was attacked by the victim," said the retired detective. "Confronted by him. And his homosexuality was exposed. I don't think at that time and in that circumstance the family could accept it. The embarrassment of his friends. All those circumstances put together and the final confrontation with the victim."

"He committed a heinous crime. There is absolutely no doubt about that. He did a terrible thing. He took the life of a person when a reasonable outcome could have been so much better. He didn't see any other way out and I think that was the mitigating circumstance."

McComas reiterated that he is endorsing Rosenkrantz's parole, but not his crime.

"I'm absolutely opposed to murder. That's why I worked in homicide," McComas told the *B.A.R.* "He committed a terrible crime. He was convicted of murder and he's done 15 years. He's paid for his crime."

McComas is not alone in his opinion. He's backed by volumes of psychological and prison evaluations from the California Department of Corrections that

strongly recommend parole.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge James Albracht, who presided over the original trial, has written a half dozen letters emphatically endorsing Rosenkrantz's parole.

"I approach the drafting of this letter with sadness because I feel that the issue of Robert's parole has been handled in an irrational manner that fails to comport with clear legal standards and procedures," wrote Albracht in a letter sent last February. "He is a human being who deserved the punishment he received, but who has served his time and has earned the right to parole."

"As the judge who heard his trial and imposed his sentence, let me say that in my opinion Robert is a man who committed a terrible crime in a moment of extreme trauma in his life, but who has served the time to which he was sentenced in a truly exemplary manner."

Kevin Weaver, the founder of Locked Out, a San Francisco-based organization that assists gay, bisexual, and transgendered prisoners, launched a petition drive several weeks ago in support of Rosenkrantz. Weaver told the *B.A.R.* he's collected more than 200 names from all over the country and in the United Kingdom and Canada. Most of the names have been gathered through his lockedout.org Web Site.

When told about the petition drive, Diamond said people wouldn't be as supportive of Rosenkrantz if they knew all the facts of the case. Diamond said Rosenkrantz's supporters have ignored the three-week period after the shooting before Rosenkrantz turned himself in. During much of that time Rosenkrantz lived in Stockton with the family of someone he met through computer bulletin boards. Diamond said Rosenkrantz never showed any remorse for the killing then. Diamond also pointed out that Rosenkrantz bought more bullets for his gun while on the lam and he doesn't buy Rosenkrantz's explanation that he just wanted to shoot up his brother's car.

"People look at him like he is the greatest thing to walk the face of the earth," said Diamond. "Give me a break." ▼

Dr. Laura

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the *Bay Area Reporter* wanted to know where the activists are when it comes to using Dr. Laura's own words against her.

"That's a great point," responded Ryan Clary, of the San Francisco branch of stopdrlaura.com. "I hadn't drawn the link on how she differs from her friends in the right-wing community in that regard."

"I guess we've all been so busy with the 'error' part, not the biological part of her statement," said gay activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca. "When it comes to these homophobes, we spend so much time reacting emotionally, because being attacked is such an intimate part of our lives. But with that gut reaction we sometimes aren't thinking real hard. We forget that

she's also acknowledging a biological cause for being gay, which is a good thing, from a pro-gay strategy point of view." Avicoli Mecca, for the record, doesn't know and doesn't care whether being gay is inborn, but understands that many others — particularly right wingers — use the issue to dismantle equal rights.

Clary remarked that it may indeed be time to acknowledge Dr. Laura for her pro-gay platform. "Dr. Laura is actually confirming what many people tried to say, that people are born gay and deserve protection." ▼

Stop Dr. Laura/San Francisco is holding a demonstration outside KPIX-TV, 855 Battery Street, on September 11 at noon; e-mail sfstopdrlaura@aol.com for more information.

Feds reject hybrid Comm. Center design

by Terry Beswick

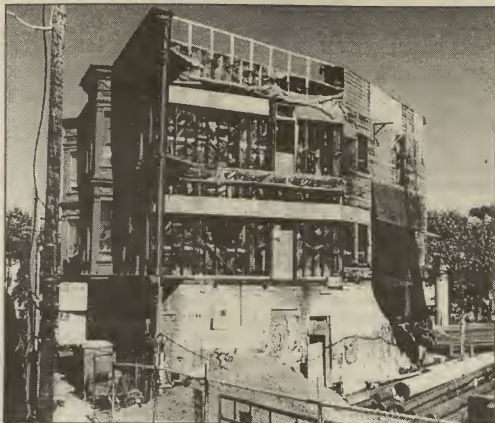
When Vice President Al Gore and Governor Gray Davis stopped by San Francisco's City Hall last September, the stated purpose of the photo op with Mayor Willie Brown was to announce another photo op a month later: the groundbreaking of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center to be built at 1800 Market Street.

But Gore also presented Pat Martel, president of the center's board, with a certificate designating the century-old Fallon Building - which preservationists had blocked the board from tearing down, instead forcing them to incorporate the existing building into the new center's design - as an official project of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Save America's Treasures" program, which Hillary Rodham Clinton touts in her capacity as first lady.

At the event, Gore also suggested that Clinton's designation would make the project eligible for "historic tax credits" from the Internal Revenue Service.

"When the vice president was here, when we had that particular event," said Martel last week, "we were hoping that along with that designation we would be eligible for funding through the historic tax credit program."

But as it turned out, the certificate from Gore had little, if anything, to do with a recent aesthetic objection from the National Park Service - which must certify historic preservation projects before the IRS will grant them historic tax credits - that the design of new 35,000 square foot building detracted from the existing 6,600 square foot Fallon



Renovation work is progressing on the Fallon Building, viewed from the Waller Street side.

Building.

As a result of the decision, the center will lose about \$500,000 in funding.

According to center officials and architects, the design for the new glass and steel structure is too high for the NPS reviewers, and they also didn't like a sloping glass structure connecting the new and the old buildings, which center designers plan to light from behind with colored lights.

The decision surprised and disappointed center officials and supporters, in part because of the high-profile Gore-Clinton designation, but also due to the endorsement from a number of historic preservationists and the city's landmark board for the hybrid center's design.

But the irony of the decision was that the historic tax credit funding was held forth as the big financial carrot to stop the center's board from tearing the

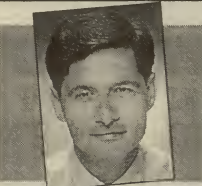
Queen Anne Victorian down and instead building anew.

"We were a bit surprised that it was denied," said Dennis Richards, president of Friends of 1800 Market Street, one of the leading groups that had blocked the demolition and advised on the center's design. "We have on our board five or six architects, and three or four of those are preservation architects, and we thought the new building complemented the old building well."

While Richards said that he

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'Lazy Bear' weekend starts next Thursday at the River

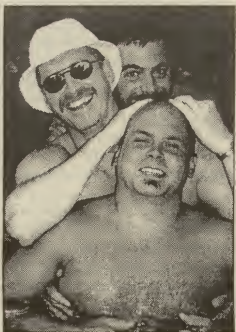
by Katie Szymanski

It's time to groom that fur and head back to the woods where you belong; the fifth annual "Lazy Bear" weekend begins Thursday, July 20 and runs through Monday, July 24 in the Russian River community of Guerneville.

Organized by Castrobear Presents, this five-day experience for bears and admirers benefits charities through the sale of raffle tickets and beverage bracelets at the weekend's various bear parties and events. There is no registration fee.

Lazy Bear will be headquartered at the Russian River Eagle, which will sell souvenirs as well as the drink bracelets. Bracelets run \$10 and are good for 50-cent beers and sodas at the Eagle, the Rainbow Cattle Company, and McT's Bull Pen.

Running under the motto, "No contests, no pageants, no frills," Lazy Bear will instead host half a dozen gatherings around Guerneville that feature everything from a cabaret performance by Sharon McNight at the Russian River Resort to a "Sweat" party at Club FAB (Check the Lazy Bear



"Lazy bears" having fun.

Web site for complete details of specific parties).

"Everyone should come, and don't worry about finding a place to stay, just crash with a friend," said Harry Lit of Castrobear Presents. "This is an event that is 100 percent for charity. It's a major labor of love for myself and my partner."

Lit emphasized that the crowd would be welcoming no matter who you are or what you look like.

"It's going to be real diverse this year," he said. "Bear is a state of mind, not just a big hairy man." ▼

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Why gay men's health? Why now?

by Eric Rofes

There was a gay men's health movement before AIDS, albeit a small, under-resourced and nascent movement. Its most prominent manifestations were community-based sexually transmitted disease clinics that emerged out of the free clinic movement of the 1960s. Many of the most prominent mainstream AIDS service organizations — Whitman-Walker in Washington, D.C., Howard Brown in Chicago, Fenway Community Health in Boston — existed as gay male STD clinics in the 1970s.

The 1970s were also a time when gay men developed models of peer-based counseling, addiction recovery programs, and suicide prevention services to meet our communities' needs. The networks of queer social workers, doctors, psychologists, and activists, and the existence of gay community centers, gay newspapers, early men of color networks and gay bars, bathhouses, and discos created during the 1970s would serve us well in the years to come.

The gay men's health movement was interrupted by the onslaught of AIDS. Many of our leaders and institutions applied their energies and resources to the burgeoning epidemic — and we are

grateful they did. The first major AIDS conferences were convened as part of the National Lesbian and Gay Health conference, and most of our major AIDS organizations were created out of existing networks of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender health activists. Our communities' extraordinary response to AIDS in the 1980s was made possible by our organizing work of the 1970s.

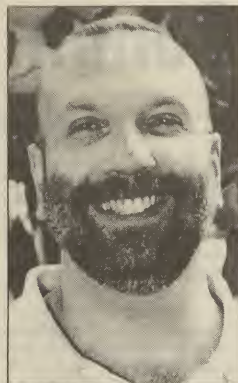
By stating that the resources and talents of the 1970s were redirected to fighting AIDS, I do not suggest that the gay men's health movement died in the 1980s. Instead, I argue the work continued in quieter, less-prominent ways, and often with very limited funding. Often the gay health movement was intertwined with HIV organizing in surprising and sometimes confusing ways. For example, the number and size of queer community centers expanded impressively over the past 15 years, with many becoming full-scale social service agencies meeting a broad range of community health needs. The expansion of services focused on gay youth and gay men of color also occurred during this time, as savvy proposal writers convinced funding sources that strengthening the overall health of our communities was effective HIV prevention work.

And this brings us to the point we are at now, and the challenges ahead of us. One is the expansion of gay men's health projects throughout this nation. We want to see conferences, organizations, and networks formed which champion broadly-defined gay men's health issues. Learning from our AIDS efforts, we want to see projects emerge from various gay male ethnic and racial groups which define and prioritize specific communities' health agendas. We want local and national groups to form which take responsibility for oversight and planning for the health needs of our diverse populations.

Second, we want to see gay activism come alive and focus as much on issues such as anti-gay violence or access to health care or STD treatment programs as HIV/AIDS. If a decade ago, we united under banners proclaiming Silence = Death, today the silence surrounding non-HIV related gay men's health issues is deafening. We want gay men out in the streets demanding universal health care for all, full funding for mental health services, and the development of new technologies to promote gay men's sexual health. And we want the gay media to take all gay male health issues seriously, and not limit their focus to HIV.

Third, we need to challenge and help health care providers and others meet our needs. The creation of a publication focused on gay men's health, an algorithm for doctors to use when gathering a sexual history from gay men, a public statement from gay men 35 and under about their needs are examples of the tools we need to bring needed partners into our movement.

Fourth, we need to support men 35 years old and younger as they take on leadership roles in our health movement, reframe existing questions to fit their own interests and needs, and assert their voices loud and clear. It



Eric Rofes

strikes me as ironic that during the gay liberation period, our movement's leaders were primarily in their teens, 20s, and early 30s. When I was a young gay man, few thought it odd that a 22-year-old would be the editor of a gay paper, leader of an activist group, or author of a political manifesto. The vanguard of the women's movement, the civil rights movement, Chicano organizing, and anti-war efforts was teeming with young people. Today, gay people 30 and under are often classified as youth and offered mentorship programs. We need them as the leaders.

And finally, fifth, we want to transform the ways in which we think about and evaluate gay men, shifting away from a perspective which exoticizes, demonizes, and pathologizes our bodies and our lives and into a model which recognizes the tenacity, survival skills, and overall resilience of our cultures and communities. What would it mean to understand openly gay men as the resilient portion of our community, that portion which has suffered physical assault, religious abuse, and political violence yet emerged emotionally intact and spiritually strong? What would it mean to understand our gender play, kinship networks, and sexual cultures not as pathetic products borne of a homophobic society, but as adaptive survival strategies which have served us well?

Let me be clear about one final point. The traditional American way of generating support around health issues: the crisis construct. Deploying the murder of Matthew Shepard, or the rise in reports of rectal gonorrhea, or alarming reports about hepatitis C to fan the flames of crisis might draw people to this movement. However, it is best to resist this temptation and be clear about one thing: we want to create a gay men's health movement that will build momentum outside the toxic cycle of crisis and resolution which frames most contemporary health organizing. We need and deserve a movement that will sustain itself against the capricious whims of media attention and the inexplicable shifts in interest by funders. ▼

Eric Rofes is a longtime community organizer and author of *Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures* (Haworth, 1998). The Gay Men's Health Summit will take place July 18-23 in Boulder, Colorado. Information about the summit is available online at www.bcap.org.

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

David Damon

July 24, 1949 — May 9, 2000

It's hard to believe that you have already been gone two months, David, and yet here I am still acknowledging the event. Almost half my life was spent with you and your 18 years of HIV and AIDS, and still I wasn't ready. Every cookbook, every piece of crystal, and every photograph was boobytrapped with memories, exploding all around



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While a resident of San Francisco from October 1986 until September 1997, Tim was the proud co-owner of the Willows Inn. Previously Tim had worked in restaurants in Vancouver, B.C.

Tim had a passion for cooking, fine wine, and '50s/'60s movies.

Loving son of Robert and Sally; dear brother of Robert Jr., Susan (Rob) McNaughton, Joy (Wayne) McLaughlin and Steven (Jane). Will be greatly missed by his nieces and nephews, Schawn, Paul Cameron, Sarah, Alexander, Britteny, Blaine and Eric; his aunts, uncles and friends/neighbors. Also missing him will be friends in Vancouver and San Francisco, and guests of the Willows Inn.

me. Well, I think I'm getting a grip on this, David, but I never knew how hard it was to say goodbye. Still, there is much of you around: your voice (I hear it still), your way of being, the part of me that is you. So OK, David — I can accept that you're gone now but — how else to say it — never, ever to be forgotten. Goodbye, dear friend — see you at the AIDS Memorial Grove.

Joseph Fonseca
aka Princess Royale Fanny

Fanny was born March 10, 1941 and left us June 16, 2000. He is survived by his brothers Jerome, Daniel, and Cory; sisters Annette, Raenaa, and Keely; and his extended family in San Francisco, Lee William, and many more.

Those who knew Fanny well will miss his laughter and party spirit. Many will remember his kind and giving heart.

Fanny, until we see you again, "god" speed. We love you.

Wayne Charles Nelson

After a brief but valiant struggle with pancreatic cancer, Wayne passed quietly away July 4, 2000 at the side of his lifelong friend, Mark. Born in Pontiac, Michigan on June 7, 1947, Wayne lived in San Francisco for 20 years. While he will be eternally missed by his many friends and his dog, Cider, we all join forces to celebrate his transition to a happier place.



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Fabricated HIV results may never be corrected

by Katie Szymanski

It's nothing new for the California Department of Corrections to allow medical neglect and corruption at the expense of human lives. But last week's *San Francisco Chronicle* story that revealed fabricated HIV test results in state prisons still came as a shock to many human rights advocates.

According to reports, the prison system hired B.C.L. Clinical Labs to coordinate blood samples from prisoners and test them for infectious diseases. But the lab was shut down three years ago when health inspectors found that there was no equipment to even run the tests, and lab workers simply "made up" the results of the blood work.

It is unclear how many people may have falsely been found not to have AIDS, hepatitis, or other diseases. It is also unclear how many people are on a regimen of medication for diseases they do not even have. But one thing is clear, according to Judy Greenspan of the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus: the state is taking few, if



Judy Greenspan

any, steps to notify current and former prisoners of the situation.

"They haven't done anything," Greenspan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They're saying they have no way to contact prisoners, that the whole file is missing."

The HIP Committee issued a press release July 10 calling for the Department of Corrections to locate and re-test each and every prisoner ever tested for diseases by B.C.L. Labs.

"They should at least do a major statewide publicity cam-

paign," said Greenspan. "Car manufacturers do it all the time when there is a recall. There should be a full page ad in all the major papers telling people they need to be re-tested. And we believe it is their responsibility, that the cost of this public health campaign should be at the Department of Corrections' expense."

As for notifying current prisoners, groups like the HIP Committee and others may have to take matters into their own hands.

"We're doing a large mailing as we speak. We're also trying to get the word spread through different newsletters," said Greenspan.

News of the testing scandal was conveniently released just days before a planned demonstration outside two women's prisons in California's Central Valley. Those protests will continue as scheduled, armed with even more information of human rights abuse. To attend the demonstration this Saturday, July 15, meet at one of two carpool locations at 9 a.m. In San Francisco, meet at the Safeway at Church and Market, and in the East Bay, meet at the MacArthur BART station in Oakland. For more information call (415) 255-7036, ext. 4, or (510) 665-1935. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

vention site and directly across the street from the Biltmore Hotel where many DNC members and Gore's campaign staff were scheduled to stay. Several Democratic Party officials, to say nothing of the L.A. Police Department, were wondering where Goldberg's head was when she proposed the plan. One top Los Angeles city official voiced the opinion of many around City Hall last week when she cracked that "the sooner Jackie moves to Sacramento, the better off City Hall will be."

And speaking of the L.A. City Council, don't let any of our local lawmakers hear this (particularly Supervisor Leslie Katz) but both the Los Angeles City Coun-

cil and the L.A. Board of Supervisors will soon be getting paid \$133,051 annually (plus cars, credit cards, etc.) thanks to recently approved pay raises.

And I don't want to say "told you so," but this column has been suggesting for weeks that Leslie Katz would not seek re-election this November.

At its Monday meeting, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club voted an early endorsement of its "Lavender Slate" of supervisory candidates for the November election. The club endorsed Lawrence Wong in District 3, Juanita Owens in District 5, Mark Leno in District 8, and Tom Ammiano in District 9.

Later, Bush, apparently openly admitting that he is more than willing to put politics ahead of principle in deciding whether to

back Ralph Nader's demand to be included in the presidential debates. "I don't know," Bush said when asked if Nader should be allowed (he definitely doesn't want Buchanan included) to join himself and Gore in the three scheduled meetings, adding "I haven't figured out the impact yet." Was the GOP nominee admitting he would be willing to allow Nader in only if he concluded it would help his own cause? "Well, I am trying to win, aren't I?" Bush answered, flashing his famous smirk.

The very same day, July 1, that Vermont's civil union law for lesbians and gay men became a reality, South Dakota went the opposite way — a new law there now strengthens existing law barring gay civil unions.

And how was your week? ▼

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Kick me

by Jim Provenzano

In Italy, il calcio is king. Soccer, that is.

Between sloppy spray painted graffiti promoting various right wing political causes, I noticed "ROMA MERDA" written on most of the middle class apartments in the otherwise beautiful residential "periferia" where I stayed with friends during my visit to World Pride Roma.

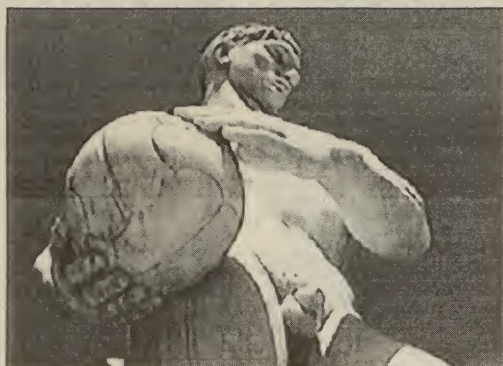
But the "merda" comment wasn't critiquing the smell or condition of this great city, but the team. "Lazio Campione" the name of the province, was the team that won, and every available space seemed to need written proof.

Posters claiming the gay event to be a scourge, and other posters promoting it, were diminished by the scribbled passion for the two leading soccer teams of the area.

Between the pope's senile ramblings about the gay Pride event being a disgrace to the church, as if the Catholic Church has exclusive rights to all events in the year 2000, and the brave response in *La Repubblica* and on TV by out of the closet administrators and activists, the entire city was a bustling debate about gay rights.

Now if only a certain handsome Italian soccer player (whom many gay guys I met told me was gay) would come out, no doubt all these elements could come together for a real "battaglia."

I didn't find proof of this player's homosexuality, nor could I find a jersey with his name on it at any of the tourist shops, but I did



Marmi-laid: stone soccer a la Roma

find the prevalent homosociality of Italy to be, as always, welcoming, warm and inspirational, despite some very verbal debates in subways, restaurants, and on TV.

The stadium built by the fascists, Stadio dei Marmi, is no longer an arena for right-wing activities. The various statues and monuments to Mussolini remain upright, but mostly ignored.

Stadio Marmi was, ironically, the site of a gay circuit party July 6, and a sports festival the day I went to see the famous nude sculptures of jocks in various heroic poses. Soccer, skateboarding, and bodybuilding were enjoyed in the arena by young men and women a great deal smaller, but no less beautiful, than the hypermuscular statues.

As guys made jokes about the American tourist taking way too many pictures of the sculptures, occasionally a basketball would stray over the stadium fence, and I'd toss it back to the "ragazzi."

"You having soccer in America?" one boy asked.

"Yes, but not like here," I replied.

Although soccer has grown in popularity stateside, gay teams still often compete with non-gay teams, and they do pretty well.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the San Francisco Spikes competed in the Armory Sports Classic in Atlanta, Georgia. The Spikes have been representing the San Francisco community since first coming together almost 18 years ago.

"The heat and sun remained important factors throughout the weekend as all of the teams battled cramps, fatigue and sunburn," said Pat Johnson of the Spikes.

The other five teams at the tournament were Atlanta, Dallas, New York, and Washington, D.C.

"Regardless of our impressive winning streak, the team was not expecting any type of easy victory at this tournament," said Paul Dessureau of the Spikes. "As a result of injuries and travel schedules, etc., the team could only bring 14 players two or three of whom were only partially recovered from previous injuries."

The Spikes chose not to take on any players from other teams. Despite the oppressive Atlanta heat and the grueling schedule of five games in two days, they played with their 14 core players.

"Many of the games were exhausting and very close, but we played not only with great individual skill but as a team that has been playing together for a long time," Dessureau said.

They faced some tough competition, including "Team Ameri-

ca" which claimed to be an "All Stars" team that recruited both straight and gay players from as far away as Argentina. (Some might call them "fingers.")

San Francisco started against a New York team that turned out to

be less competitive than expected, especially considering that New York had advanced to the semi-finals of last year's world championships, where they lost to SF.

SF won with ease, scoring six goals while not giving New York an inch. "Eric Eiben was the star of the game, collecting four goals, while Matt Irwin and Cassio Alves each put in a goal each," Johnson reported.

Next up was a Dallas team that SF had beaten 5-1 in last year's tournament in Atlanta. Dallas played inspired soccer and didn't back down. Johnson admitted that "SF played their worst game of the tournament, wilting a bit in the heat, and unable to score with the same ease as in our game against New York." Dallas scored a goal early on, with SF answering on a goal by Bob Hartnagel. Dallas stood firm and put in another goal, winning the game 2-1.

The Atlanta and SF teams know each other well, having played each other in each of the last four tournaments. SF started well, scoring twice in the first half on beautiful shots by Matt Irwin and Eiben, to lead 2-0 at the half.

After some questionable calls, and a mistaken kick where SF put a goal in its own net, the game ended in a tie. In Europe, such an event would result in rioting, but the tournament attendees maintained composure.

The Atlanta team missed two of their first four tie-breaking shots, while SF scored on each of their four shots by Eiben, Irwin, Johnson, and Ed Center. The fifth kicks were not taken since SF was too far ahead for Atlanta to recover.

The Spikes have done well in their local league, the Marin Soccer League, where they play on Saturdays in Terra Linda. If you are interested in attending a game, the times and locations are listed at the MLS Web site: <http://www.rir.net/mls/>.

The next gay tournament will be hosted by Cologne Germany. "The competition will be even more fierce since the Europeans will have the home field advantage and the American teams will have such an expense to get to Germany," said Dessureau. "But we're confident that they will once again put in a good showing."

Let's hope that after World Gay Pride, some Italians will be inspired to attend as well. ▼

Jim Provenzano

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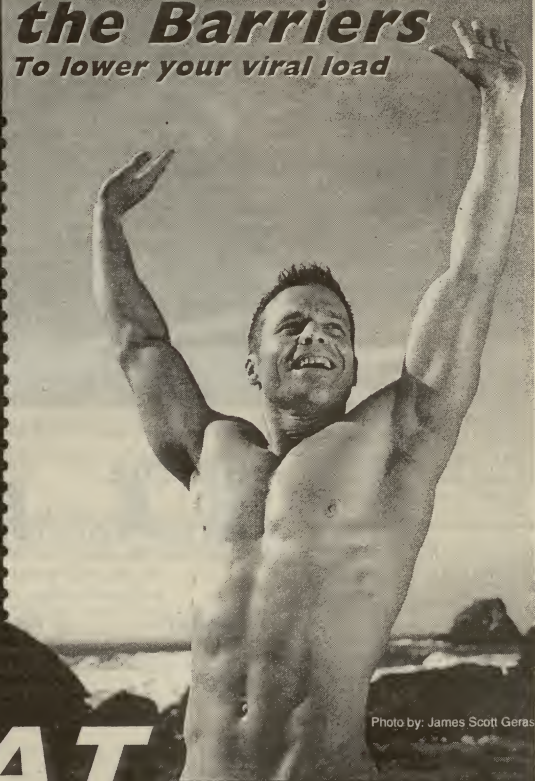


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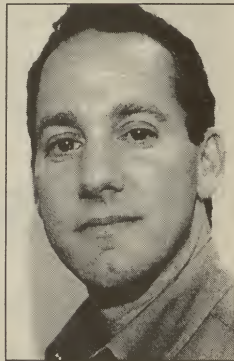
Mark Elderkin is one GLAAD guy

by Katie Szymanski

Used to be, the Internet was barely mentioned in discussions about media. But with the Web's new significance—and the proliferation of everything from hate sites to online magazines—it has become apparent that cyberspace needs the same tools as earth space, including media watchdogs.

San Francisco's own Mark Elderkin, president, chief operating officer, and co-founder of Gay.com, stepped into that role when he was appointed to the board of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation last month.

Elderkin brings to GLAAD his success as the creator of the largest gay Web site in existence, plus a host of skills ranging from technology and consulting to market-



Mark Elderkin

ing and general cyber-relating. His background, he believes, will be helpful not only in developing re-

lationships with on-line media, but also in organizing grassroots community efforts to stand against biased representation.

"I plan to increase GLAAD's membership through online services, as well as reach all segments of our community through the Internet, expanding the reach of what can be accomplished," Elderkin told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Monitoring the Web is obviously shaky ground, and GLAAD has taken firm stands—sometimes in agreement with the right wing—against Internet censorship. But that doesn't mean that Elderkin won't advocate for fair lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender coverage wherever he can.

"I'm very excited to be in this position," he said. "I've been a supporter for a while and now can use my experience to advance the cause." ▼

Comm. Center

◀ page 19

hoped the center would appeal the ruling, Martel said that had now been ruled out.

"We are withdrawing our application. We investigated the possibility completely and the only way we could be eligible for the funding would be to completely redesign the project," said Martel, who last month was re-elected along with the other officers of the center's board to another term.

Martel and others expressed resentment that they had spent substantial time and money making modifications to the center design in an effort to secure the funding.

"As part of the whole process to apply, we had extensive meetings with the State Historical Preservation office and the National Park Service," said Dan Van Gorder, vice president of the board. "We went over every detail."

Van Gorder said that it had been estimated that it would take between \$500,000 and \$600,000 to keep the Fallon Building and restore it, rather than tear it down as the board had originally preferred. The tax credits made the preservation route seem more acceptable.

Jane Cee of Cee/Phau Collaborative, managing architect for the center, said that the meetings with the NPS began about a year and a half ago, near the beginning of the design process.

"We were disappointed, obviously," said Cee. "We had thought that, although everything was not their ideal, the design was complementary to the Queen Anne. We had done several things to



The Friends of 1800 Market Street presented a \$50,000 check to the LGBT Community Center Project board. The amount represented the preservationist group's fundraising goal for the project.

modify the design to accommodate their concerns." For example, Cee noted, the new building's height had actually been lowered by about four feet, a modification she had thought was acceptable.

"We've spent between \$100,000 and \$200,000 already" modifying the plans in an effort to win the historic tax credits, Cee told the *B.A.R.*

Martel said that higher-ups at the NPS told her that aspects of the new building's design simply ran contrary to the agency's standing guidelines for eligibility to the historic preservation tax credits.

But Cee said that was not true, saying the preservation guidelines were broadly written and "open to very subjective interpretation."

In fact, contrary to the notion that the new building will be too different from the old one, Cee said that according to the NPS guidelines, "they like it to be dis-

tinctly different."

Had the center decided to make the substantial modifications that the NPS reviewers had suggested in their alternative drawings, Cee estimated that there would be an additional cost of up to \$500,000 and a delay in construction of six to eight months, very likely moving the grand opening back to sometime in 2002.

Though initially planned to open this winter, that date was later moved to June 2001; the board now projects an opening by July 2001.

In any case, money and pledges continue to come in to pay for the completion of the 40,670 square foot facility, budgeted at a total of \$14.5 million, including fixtures and furnishings.

"We'll survive," Van Gorder said. "We're up to \$12 million in pledges." ▼

other words, in exchange for developers having less obstacles, they must increase their affordable percentage from 10 to 12 percent.

"We're not raising any height limits, changing any zoning, or affecting any residential neighborhoods," Leno told the *B.A.R.* "We're creating a partnership between developers and advocates that will simplify the approval process for building housing. This plan is getting a lot of support."

Fellow supervisors Sue Bierman, Barbara Kaufman, Leslie

Katz, and Gavin Newsom have signed on as co-sponsors; Ammi-ano "has indicated his support, but I don't know if he will become a co-sponsor," according to Leno.

Additional endorers include the Coalition for Jobs, Arts, and Housing, the Senior Action Network, SF Bicycle Coalition, and Urban Ecology.

Affordable housing units are usually advertised, and renters and owners often have to compete for spaces through a lottery system. ▼

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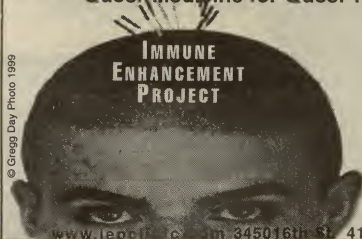
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Leno housing

◀ page 17

tomatic conditional use permits and expand what is allowable as a building site for housing development only (commercial projects would not qualify for this deal). Second, there would be a requirement for all new housing—including live-work spaces, which currently have no such requirements—to set aside 12 percent of all units to be designated as "affordable." In

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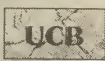


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LEGAL NOTICES

Request for Qualifications #186

DHS RFQ #186

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals who may be qualified to implement the San Francisco WAGES+ (Wage Augmentation Grants for Entry-level Staff) Project. The contract is to plan, implement, and evaluate a 4.1 million nationally innovative child care provider compensation program. The purpose of the program is to address living wages for the lowest tier of the child care workforce. The program will augment salaries of entry-level child care workers and teachers in licensed child care centers caring for children from low-income families. the program is expected to improve staff recruitment and retention thereby increasing the stability of the child care workforce and the quality of care for children and their families.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Wednesday, July 5, 2000. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference is on Wednesday, July 12, 2000 at 8:00 AM at the SF Dept. of Human Service, 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room SE, CA. RFQ is due Thursday, July 20, 2000 by 5:00PM - NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information or to receive an RFQ packet, contact Rosa Inez at (415) 557-5538

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241425

The following person(s) are doing business as SS Bros. 1445 Quesada Avenue. San Francisco, CA. 94124. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Sebastian P. Colon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/14/2000.

JUNE 22, 29 JULY 6, 13, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241025

The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Acupuncture Associates. 1201 Noe Street San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed John Kolenda. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/26/2000.

JUNE 29 JULY 6, 13, 20, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0233942

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Larkin Street Flowers and Gifts. Located at: 709 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 8/13/1999.

This business was conducted by: a individual: Linda Dela Cruz.
JUNE 26, JULY 6, 13, 20, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 240524

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Defiant Productions 1800 Franklin #502 S.F. CA 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 2/14/00. This business was conducted by: a individual: Jason J. Thomas
JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241936

The following person(s) are doing business as EyeBite Productions 3566 17th St., Ste. #1, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a individual signed Garrett Reg. Lenoir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/06/2000.

JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG 3, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241883

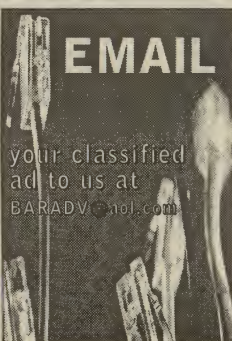
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. The Sundance Association; 2. Sundance Saloon; 3. Hoedown 2000, 1314 Noe St., S.F., CA 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation The Sundance Association For Country Western Dancing signed Ingu Yun, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 12/23/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/03/2000.

JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 313337

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Jason Michael White Rajali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafav Rajali. For Change of Name. The application of Jason Michael White Rajali (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jason Michael White Rajali has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jason Michael Rajali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of August 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000



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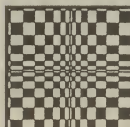
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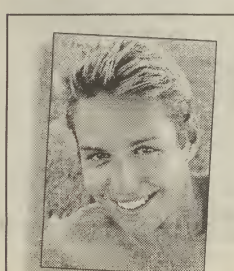
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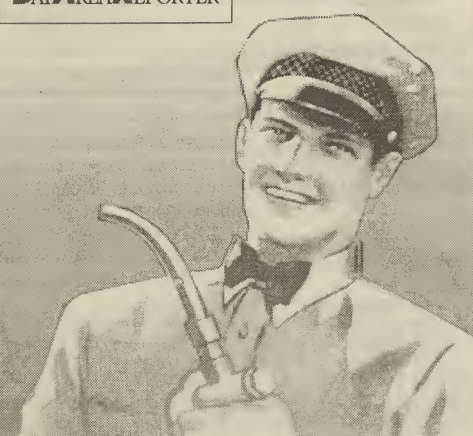
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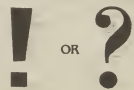
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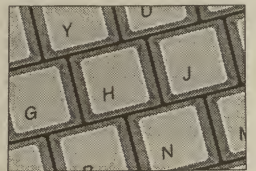
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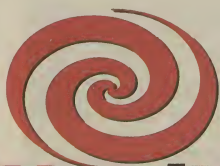
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Director, University of California San Francisco AIDS Research Institute and the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies

Calvin Cohen, MD

Research Director, Community Research Initiative of New England and HIV Consultant, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Boston

Roy Gulick, MD, MPH

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We will survive!

Gay & lesbian figures on the state of gay & lesbian literature.

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Bathhouse blues

Director Zhang Yang's Beijing 'Shower' opens.

page 33



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 28 • 13 July 2000

Being Proust

Raul Ruiz's
Time Regained

by Michael McDonagh

People who haven't read French writer Marcel Proust think he's cerebral. Of course he is. But Proust is also concerned with physical love, and much of his book *In Search of Lost Time* (1913-1927) describes its impact. The eight-volume, 3,000-page continuous novel, one of the first of its kind, also has a wonderful story and colorful characters. And just about everything happens: dinner parties, gossip, erotic double-dealing, death, dishonor, and a passionate search for personal meaning.

Now we have Chilean director Raul Ruiz's film of the novel's last volume, *Time Regained* (*Le Temps Retrouvé*), which opens Friday at the Castro Theatre. But is Proust's masterpiece tailor-made for film? Well, not exactly. Sure, the book is highly visual, with lavish settings, but then there's all that reflection and philosophy.

Still, many directors have been attracted to it — both Visconti and Joseph Losey planned film versions — and three so far have reached the screen. Volker Schlöndorff's *Swann in Love* (1984) covered that chapter in Volume 1, *Swann's Way*. But Jeremy Irons was a washout as

page 37 ►

Marcello Mazzarella
as Marcel Proust
in Raul Ruiz's
Le Temps Retrouvé
(*Time Regained*)

Odder couple

Chuck staked in
Chuck & Buck by David Lamble

In an age of peculiar, funny little movies, *Chuck & Buck* is a very funny and very peculiar little movie — in some ways like a cross between *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* and *Rain Man*, with just a hint of *Birdy*, *Stand By Me*, *My Own Private Idaho* and all the other dark little fables of two guys who never quite get a handle on their "relationship." *Chuck & Buck* shares one trait with another, much darker fable of our times, Martin Scorsese's *The King of Comedy*: at times it's so nakedly honest that you find yourself looking away from the screen — wishing to hell that you could pause it — but you're in a real theatre with other strangers sitting in the dark, and that's not an option.

Chuck & Buck's director, Miquel Arteta, is rather pleased that his strange little comedy of childhood's end is somewhat off-putting, a little too hands-on for some tastes.

"I wanted to create a feeling of intense intimacy with this character, Buck. People have said, 'It's so intimate, it's intrusive.' And I'm proud of that," says Arteta. "[Seeing *Chuck & Buck*] is like reading your best friend's diary. I wanted to give that kind of uncomfortably intimate feeling with a character who's so single-minded in his pursuit of his childhood friend."

Mike White, the screenwriter and the film's Buck, admits that his black comedy about a modern-day Peter Pan trying to regain the love of a childhood friend treads a thin line. "While I was writing it, I sort of imagined that it was the most deadpan of comedies, but when I was actually playing the part of Buck, it definitely goes on an emotional roller coaster. It felt like a tragedy."

Chaining lollipops

As the movie begins, Chuck, who hasn't seen Buck in 15 years, is invited to the funeral of Buck's mother. Chuck shows up at the wake with his fiancée

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Michael White
and Chris Weitz
of *Chuck & Buck*



Matthew Greenfield

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

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by Roberto Friedman and Crack of Dawn

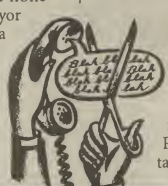
Our bleary early-morning eyes did a double-take one 8:30 a.m. last week as we passed fancy new dessert café Citizen Cake and espied none other than the Lord Mayor **Willie Brown** having a power breakfast with-in. On the sidewalk, his beefy security patrol kept a close eye on us.

Was the Mayor plotting damage control over his cuppa joe and gourmet cheesecake? That very morning, the news had broken in **Rapier & Moss's** *Chron* column that SF Housing Authority Director **Ronnie Davis** was being sued for sex harassment by a former aide. Politicolumnists R&M couldn't stop their purple pens: "For starters, the accuser is another man [italics ours] — **Matthew Thomas**, the former head of the agency's Employment Development Program — who is alleging that Davis made a pass at him."

Thomas is alleging that Davis "made sexual advances and attempted to initiate sexual (contact)" during a ride to the airport. It's a sordid tale if true. And our big City Hall beat reporters were shocked — shocked! — at every salacious detail.

Who's the black private dick who's a sex machine to all the chicks? No, no, we don't mean yet another city official, we mean *Shaft*! It was an excited gaggle of

filmgoers who busted down Van Ness Avenue on a recent chilly evening to the unlovely Galaxy Theatre, in order to see the **Samuel L. Jackson**-starring flick. Out There knows you will understand what we mean when we say it's important to get a good seat for the *Shaft*.



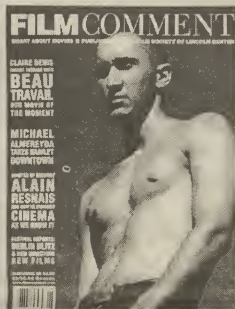
Out There

Original Shaft **Richard Roundtree** had a few walk-ons, but it was Samuel L. as nephew Shaft who really owned the movie. Alas, we think Paramount should have taken a pass on beauty queen **Vanessa Williams** and paid **Foxy Brown** **Pam Grier** whatever she

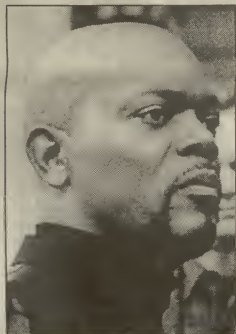
wanted to co-star. Pam put the blax in blaxploitation!

Opinions 'r us

Meanwhile, we are so over all the humongous hype about the goddamn **Harry Potter** book. Every time someone asks us, "Did you read the new **Harry Potter** book?" we answer, "No, actually we read adult literature." Until there's an installment entitled *Harry Potter Goes to the YMCA*, we'll skip the whole series.



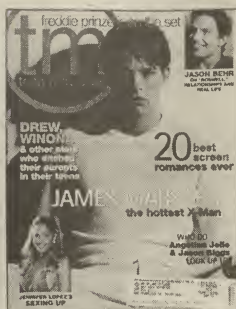
Magazine rack: *Film Comment*, the glossy bimonthly published by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, calls itself "smart about movies," and they're not just blowing smoke. Their "movie of the moment" last month was **Claire Denis'** *Beau Travail*, a wise choice, and their coverboy was the luscious **Grégoire Colin**, who played Sentain. There's also an inside photo of the film's near-nekkid Foreign Legion men that looks like a fierce five-way in the



Samuel L. Jackson in *Shaft*

dunes.

By contrast, *Teen* Movieline magazine features yummy Hollywood youngster **James Marsden**, "the hottest X-Man," as its cover bait, but not much substance inside. Though the lad looks good enough to eat in every photo op, Out There doesn't really care if he counts as one of his loves "my Nintendo 64. It's terrible, but I can't help it. Should we move on?" Yes, let's do.



See if you can guess which fab quotation comes from which movie mag!

1.) "It's as if his soul is freed from his body. It flows out with the blood from his veins"

2.) "When I first came out to LA, I didn't really date anyone. I had culture shock. I just thought, 'Wow, the girls are so liberal here.'"

Littler and littler

We swear they do it just to annoy us: the *Chron's* **Little Man** was striking a high profile at the doors to the Curran Theatre last week for opening night of *Les Misérables* — or rather it was a poor working-stiff stuffed into a Little Man costume, complete with chair, bowler hat, idiot grin, and clappin' hands. We think the Little Man costume should have giant pink genitals which he can pull out when he gets *really* excited. But doesn't *Chron* critic **Bob Graham** feel the tiniest bit compromised? When his *Les Miz* review came out with its own Little Man giving palm time, he looked bought and sold for.

Ab-Fab redux?

When news leaked out last week that the creative minds be-

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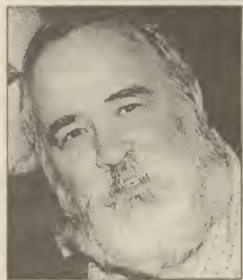
BOOKS

The end of lesbian & gay literature?

Rumors of its death have been greatly exaggerated

by Deborah Peifer

The news hit Bay Area readers and writers like a bomb. Within days we heard that Nancy Bereano was closing Firebrand Books, that Carol Seajay was terminating publication of *Feminist Bookstore News*, and, in news that struck particularly close to home, that Richard Labonté was leaving *A Different Light Bookstore*. Was the world of queer writing collapsing? More importantly, would we have nothing new to read? After my initial panic attack, I sought the wisdom of a gaggle of gay and lesbian writers, editors, and publishers. Their thoughtful responses, heavily edited for space constraints, follow.



Different Light's Richard Labonté

Richard Labonté, *A Different Light Bookstore*: "We're seeing the same quantity of gay titles, 1,100-1,200 a year, but the books are not coming from the same place. There are enough good books coming out, in a diverse enough range and of sufficient quality with enough people to buy them. I hate to be a Pollyanna, but I see a thriving or at least lively publishing world, and an enthusiastic buying world."

Nancy Bereano, *Firebrand Books*: "The fact that the three of us made a decision, and honestly, we did not make it together, marks the fact that something had already ended. Our leaving didn't end it. Firebrand was very engaged in the lesbian and gay movement. The saddest part of all this is not having that community anymore. I don't feel optimistic about the state of the world."

Carol Seajay, *Feminist Bookstore News*: "G&L writing has survived in all of the most difficult times, in the most difficult circumstances. The future won't look like the '70s, the '80s or the '90s... but none of those decades looked like each other, either. The '00s will look different. Lesbians are not going to stop reading. This is not to say that I'm not grieved by the losses of recent years. But the fact that women's and gay men's bookstores haven't been able single-handedly to hold back the sea-change of superchains does not mean we won't [continue] to create and find our literature. It will be harder, but that's a familiar norm, historically speaking."

Julia Willis, *Reel Time*: "I'm not sure any sort of writing has much of a future anymore. So, just in case, I'm planning to put lots of writhing, naked people on the cover of my next book, even if the book itself happens to be a cat book addressing the agony of fur balls."

Disguised presence

Barbara Grier, *The Naiad Press*: "Of course there will always be lesbian and gay literature.



Naiad Press' Barbara Grier

It may change appearance at times, but it will go on. We will always as a group lend more than a usual number to the ranks of writers, just as we do in every creative group. See, we all tend to forget that gay and lesbian literature was always present, just a bit disguised. Oh yes, honey, it will go on and on and on."

Caro Clarke, *The Wolf Ticket*: "The excitement of forging a new Nation has worn off before our feet hit that solid shore, and we're sweeping back as in an ebb tide to the assimilationist world that we find more natural because more familiar. Every movement has its time and tide. That our political jewels, our own special bookshops and publications, are now gasping on the drying sand is sad evidence that our tide is going out, diluting, wiping itself away."

Brian Bouldrey, *Love, the Magician*: "The harm done to queer publishing and bookselling is the same harm being done to independent booksellers and publishers of every sort — the harm being done by chains. On the other hand, it could make me happy in the end — queer publishing could go back to the way it was, marginal, with marginal writers who aren't lured away by big bucks and might return to doing adventurous things with narrative and subject matter. With less at stake, they'll take more chances."

Carolyn Gage, *Monologues and Scenes for Lesbian Actors*: "I think that the future is the Internet, and not necessarily profit-making. We won't go back to the old days of the mimeograph, but something like it. Change. Not the end, just change."

Claire McNab, *Under Suspicion*: "Does gay and lesbian writing have a future? Most definitely. First, not only is there an established market for gay and lesbian writing, but the slow (too slow!) acceptance of gays and lesbians as equal members of society encourages the more closeted of our sisters and brothers to be seen openly purchasing and reading our literature. Second, the growth of electronic publishing on the Internet will have an unintended benefit for gay and lesbian writing. E-publishing is facilitating a growing avalanche of published material desperately looking for readers. The future? I'm optimistic."

Dan Cullinane, *Alyson Publications*: "I have never been more excited about gay and lesbian writing than I am right now. The diversity of experiences and voices we are encountering is staggering. As gays and lesbians become more outspoken and comfortable with their place in society, it is increasingly reflected on the printed page. The future of gay and lesbian writing is the same future as all creativity — good stories, well told."

Niche out

Daphne Gottlieb, *Pelt*: "Is there a future in gay and lesbian writing? Absolutely. Is the drop-off in queer-specific publishing regrettable? Sure. It seems to me that the problem isn't with g/l writing, but with g/l niche publishing/bookstores. As a writer, I don't see any lack of opportunities to publish out there. I'm probably naive, but maybe the marketplace is changing, not disappearing for queer writers."



Jewelle Gomez

Jewelle Gomez, *The Gilda Stories*: "At this point, Black lesbian fiction writing doesn't even exist on the shelves of mainstream bookstores. At least not Black lesbians writing about lesbians. I have no idea what lesbian writing will look like. It may take some time for things to shake out — the market to even out, and a new

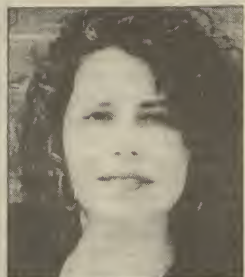
generation of lesbians who can decide for themselves, without market immersion, what they want to read. Some of us will keep writing lesbian stories even if we don't have publishers."

Jean Stewart, *Emerald City Blues*: "Nothing short of a Holy Inquisition will ever end gay and lesbian writing, now. What we are currently witnessing is both a changing of the guard and a changing of the medium. There's a new day coming, and a new group of gay and lesbian writers, publishers and booksellers coming our way. As the old guard leaves the stage, I say thank you for all you've done for us. The torch is being passed before our very eyes."

Jess Wells, *The Price of Passion*: "Lesbian and gay literature will continue to be written because we're chronicling a culture, not just an oppression. Lesbian/gay lit would still be distinguishable as such, even if homophobia were completely eradicated."

Katherine V. Forrest, *Sleeping Bones*: "Presses other than our own 'traditional' community presses are publishing all sorts of books that have relevance to us, and our own young writers are (finally!) coming along and writing books that are a radical departure from the work that emerged as our community emerged."

Lesléa Newman, *Girls Will Be Girls*: "In the last few years I



Lesléa Newman

have edited two anthologies, and I received hundreds of manuscripts, a clear indication that lesbian writing is alive and well (and might I say, hot!) My preference is not to read poems, stories and novels on a screen. But if that's what it takes for lesbian literature to survive, I will work hard to adjust. The alternative, silence, is just too scary."

Margaret Gillon, *Odd Girls Press*: "It took the b/g/l community a long time to break out of the closet, and one of the ways we did that was to establish our own presses and publish our own books. We have a publishing future, but it requires new directions and transformation, our forte!"

Michael Kearns, *T-Cells and Sympathy*: "While I am disheartened that many of our outlets, as gay and lesbian writers, are dying, there will always be a marketplace for our work. It is not a question of ideal circumstances; it

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Greek gods on the prowl

42nd Street Moon rescues Cole Porter score

by Richard Dodds

There was so much sexual innuendo — gay, straight, and otherwise — in the 1950 musical *Out of This World* that two years later it probably wouldn't have gotten staged at all. The Eisenhower era of stultifying conformity just wasn't the time for these kinds of shenanigans. After a disappointing run of 157 performances, it disappeared, sinking a luscious Cole Porter score, and creating something of a legend around this show that was out of sorts with its time.

This is just the kind of show that 42nd Street Moon loves to resurrect, but when it opens this week at the Eureka Theatre, it will have been a long time in coming. It turns out it was hate at first sight when Stephanie Rhoads, one

of the artistic directors of 42nd Street Moon, saw *Out of This World* at an Oakland theater six years ago. "So every time the title came up," said Greg MacKellan, her artistic partner, "she really came down on it. But it became harder and harder to ignore, because it's such a good score."

What Rhoads had seen in Oakland was the version that opened on Broadway, which is not the same thing as the version with which the cast began rehearsals. "Not that it was fabulous, but the original script is much better and the original characters more interesting and the jokes funnier," MacKellan said. "But when the show got in trouble out of town, they brought in George Abbott, who hates sex, to fix a show that was all about sex. And he's also the idiot who cut 'From This Moment On.'"

MacKellan and Rhoads got a crash course in *Out of This World* — based on the Amphitryon legend — when they paid a courtesy call to the head of the Cole Porter Trust in New York. They left with the assignment to create a new script to go with Porter's songs. The trust also presented them with seven versions of libretto, from the rehearsal script to a 1970s version that turned the Greek gods into hippies. "In that version," MacKellan said, "the character of Apollo was made explicitly gay. In 1950, things were done with a wink."

To MacKellan's surprise, one of the scripts was by the late Howard Ashman, who would go on to write *Little Shop of Horrors* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. He also had a gay Apollo, but he reset the whole story in Hollywood. "It's interesting because you see Howard Ashman right at the beginning, and some of it is very clever and funny, but a lot of it is quite sophomoric," MacKellan

Darlene Popovic is the goddess Juno in *Out of This World*

said. "But I thought it was brilliant to turn Helen, Jupiter's conquest, into a movie star."

The new script that MacKellan concocted draws heavily from the original script before George Ab-

bott had a chance to bowdlerize it, and then works in some of Ashman's conceits about Hollywood. There is also a fair amount of MacKellan in the script.

"When the whole thing was finished, I thought, 'This is really gay. Cole Porter would love this. It really fits his lyrics.' I was uncomfortable at first that we would be presenting something that wasn't what you would have seen on Broadway in 1950, but my whole resistance faded because this really is in the spirit of the show."

Although the score is considered one of Porter's loveliest, the only song written for the show that became a big hit was "From This Moment On" — and it was cut before the show opened on Broadway. That decision had been reversed by the time of a 1956 off-Broadway revival that Rick Besoyan (*Little Mary Sunshine*) prepared, but the production also cleaned up some of the lyrics that hadn't bothered theatergoers only five years before.

In the song "Nobody's Chasing Me," Juno has a lyric about "the cock chasing the chicken," which became a "cook" in 1956. "They just weren't going near that word," MacKellan said, "no matter what it meant."

For more information on *Out of This World*, call 788-1125.

Shaking up Shakespeare

Cross-dressing is nothing new with Shakespeare. In his day, all the women's roles were played by men. In its production of *Measure for Measure*, Woman's Will is reviving that tradition, and adding its own twist. The male roles will be played by women.

Now in its third season, Woman's Will begins a tour of free performances in area parks this weekend. *Measure for Measure* actually marks a departure for the troupe, which used all-female casts in its productions of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Coriolanus*. And that tradition will be resumed in the fall with its 90-minute black-box adaptation of *Hamlet*.

"When our women play men's roles," says artistic director Erin Merritt, "they stretch the boundaries of the social and gender roles in which they seem themselves, and audiences see these classic situations and their own lives in a new light."

Measure for Measure will begin its tour in Berkeley, on July 15-16 in John Hinkel Park and July 22-23 in Live Oak Park. There will be stops in Oakland, Foster City, and Ross before the show arrives in

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CARMINA BURANA
William Eddins conductor and pianist
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San Francisco Symphony and Chorus
Members of the San Francisco Girls Chorus

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21
Orff *Carmina burana*
Carmina burana is a wild shout of joy, a tribute to love's transfiguring power. This is music at its wild, rowdy best—a celebration of eating, drinking and the glorious pleasures of the flesh. The SFS Chorus won a Grammy for its recording of this choral showpiece. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 is as elegant as *Carmina* is raucous.

FRI JUL 14 8PM
ROSEMARY CLOONEY & THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
George Daugherty conductor
John Oddo musical director for Rosemary Clooney

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Pete Escovedo & His Latin Jazz Orchestra
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THU JUL 20 8PM
PURE TCHAIKOVSKY
Joel Smirnoff conductor
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Audra McDonald soprano
Ted Sperling conductor
San Francisco Symphony

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RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN AND FRIENDS
Vance George conductor
Christiane Noll soprano
Ron Raines baritone
San Francisco Symphony and Chorus

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Little Richard piano and vocalist

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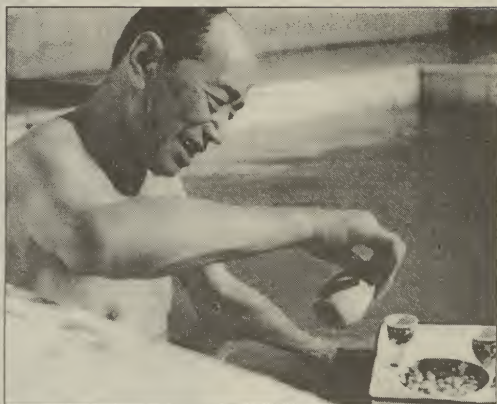
'Shower' in a Beijing bathhouse

by David Lamble

Set in a decaying Beijing bathhouse almost in the shadow of the wrecker's ball, director Zhang Yang's *Shower* tells a funny and poignant story of a modern Chinese family (oddly made up only of men) headed up by a father who will give his last breath to maintain this dying symbol of male camaraderie. About 30 to 40 of these old-fashioned spas are said to exist in present-day Beijing. (Though there are no reports of specifically gay bathhouses, Chinese gay male culture has a significant tearoom bent, and a gay bathhouse probably awaits another wave in the capitalist revolution.)

Old Mr. Liu runs a kind of rest home for a Chinese collection of *alter cokers* who swap shaggy dog stories about the new economy while indulging themselves in daylong bouts of massage, operasinging and exotic sports (cock-fighting crickets). Mr. Liu looks after his retarded son Erming, whose world is as narrowly focused as the childish hero of *Chuck & Buck*, and who bears a passing resemblance to the Dustin Hoffman idiot savant in *Rain Man*.

Enter Daming, Mr. Liu's all-business older son, who sees the family bathhouse as a huge alba-



Zhu Xu as Master Liu in Zhang Yang's *Shower*

tross to be modernized or put to sleep. In a hilarious opening credit sequence, a vision of the kind of automated car-wash-style bathhouse Daming would run is presented Charlie Chaplin-like (*Modern Times*) — a vision that combines a car wash with one of those self-cleaning toilets for the homeless.

Shower uses its evocative metaphors of the disappearance of the traditional Chinese multi-generational family as a launching pad for a bittersweet domestic comedy about the inevitability of

loss and the saving grace of memory, friendship and the right kind of family ties. The film makes particularly funny use of the odd Chinese passion for opera, and is part of an exciting new wave of Chinese films to deal with urban life. Director Zhang Yang (in concert with his American-born producer, Peter Loehr) was previously represented by the art house comedy hit *Spicy Love Soup*. I eagerly await their take on the first Chinese gay bathhouse. ▼

Shower opens Friday at the Clay Theatre.

Lesbian & gay lit

◀ page 31

is a question of survival. Our stories must get out there, in spite of a changing world. The Net cannot be ignored. We will tell our stories and get them published, or we, too, will die."

Noreen Barnes McLain, *Tough Acts to Follow*: "Gay and lesbian writing certainly has a vital future, but it's shifting into more mainstream venues. Both Barnes & Noble and the tiny independent bookseller around the corner have sections on g/l/b/t topics. Those sections are no longer the half-shelf of books on sociology/psychology wedged in between self-help and women's studies in a back corner that they used to be just a few years ago."

Nanci Little, *First Resort*: "Our future may be the Internet. If, as Marshall McLuhan said to those many years ago, the medium is the message, then we need to flow with the medium. All I know is that our voices will be heard. We as women are too strong to let our words go unspoken."

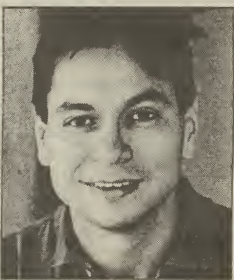
Bright lights

Felice Newman, *Cleis Press*: "Lesbian and gay writing absolutely has a future, a very bright, energetic and artistically satisfying future. L/g/b/t people want to read books that reflect our lives and our dreams, books that challenge and startle us into a new awareness of ourselves."

Victoria Brownworth, award-winning author and editor: "It's up to us to maintain a gay and lesbian literature. If we insist on maintaining the fiction that we are 'just like straight people,' which is both wrong and self-loathing, we will have no one to blame but ourselves when we return to a time without queer literature."

Ed Hermance, Giovanni's

Room bookstore: "We're going through a generational shift. If publishing, distribution, and even reading and writing are going to change so much that we of the Neanderthal generation won't recognize their future forms, then we certainly shouldn't speculate about the prospects of younger generations."



Michael Nava

Michael Nava, *The Burning Plain*: "The explosion of gay and lesbian writing that began in the mid-'80s and was fueled into the early '90s by AIDS and queer activism is over; the publishing industry is in huge upheaval, and gay is more mainstream than it's ever been. We're approaching a new age, but it isn't here yet, and clinging to what was is only a recipe for bitterness and irrelevance."

"I remember back in '90 talking to a fellow writer about the African American writers in the '40s (Baldwin, Richard Wright) who went to France to write, because there they could be writers first instead of always being Black. I told him, wouldn't it be great to wake up one day and not be filled with rage at the way gay people are treated and treat each other, and be able to sit down and just write a damn story for once, instead of a manifesto? For me, that day has come." ▼

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Chuck & Buck

◀ Arts cover

Carlyn, only to discover that Buck is still behaving as if they were both 11 years old. "Chain-smoking" fruit-flavored lollipops, Buck makes a pass at Chuck in the bathroom of his mother's home, after which Chuck and Carlyn return to LA, leaving Buck emotionally devastated.

The film's nakedly unnerving claustrophobia is enhanced by the use of tiny digital cameras that break down the normal boundaries between actor and audience,

and reveal Buck as a needy boy in a man's body. Mike White says he intended Buck to be a character audiences would find painful to identify with, "a character who is kind of a repository of everybody's worst fear of who they might be — not a serial killer, necessarily, but someone who has all the vulnerabilities, weaknesses and confusion that people fear they are and don't want to be."

Chuck & Buck defies audience expectations in other unsettling ways. While Buck has stayed emotionally stuck in time, he is not retarded, disturbed, or sexually innocent. White says that while Buck may play with his toys and get his daily intake of fruit from lollipops, he's capable of using sex to get what he wants. "I wanted to play with the convention of the eternal boy which is oft-represented in film — *Forrest Gump* and *Rain Man* — those characters are often desexualized. I thought it would be interesting to conflate in one character those sort of en-

dearing accessible traits of someone who's retained their childishness, but to give that character a sexual, predatory side."

White adds that he was deliberately pushing the audience's comfort zone, daring them to identify with and even come to love Buck despite a creepy side to his obsessiveness in pursuing Chuck. "In a typical stalker movie, Buck would wind up being tossed out of an attic and onto a stake below. We wanted to create a character the audience might first recoil from, then wonder, 'How come I'm identifying with this character who I was repelled by at first?'"

C&B can be viewed as an indie remake of Barry Levinson's male-bonding road dramedy *Rain Man*. But instead of replicating *Rain Man*'s Oscar-winning formula of odd couple star turns from Hoffman/Cruise, *C&B* removes the safety net. Mike White's Buck lacks Dustin Hoffman's letter-perfect technical reading and all the deadpan jokes about maple syrup, toothpicks and Abbott and Costello that make Hoffman's Raymond a character the audience can feel comfortable with. Buck is a much more difficult character for audiences to warm up to.

Conversely, Chuck, a very focused cold fish of a record executive (the love child of David Geffen and Keanu Reeves?), presents an even tougher challenge for Chris Weitz, who can't fall back on the patented Cruise grin. Director Arteta insists that *C&B* "works like alternative egos of a single person. You can think of Chuck as the part of us that we portray to the world when we are trying to make people think that we're handsome, successful and in control, while Buck is the inappropriately needy child. The movie is



Michael White and director Miquel Arteta on the *Chuck & Buck* set

those two egos figuring out how they can live with each other."

Rocky ride

White says it was always his intention to give his audience a rockier ride, to challenge the conventional expectations of a buddy comedy, to show an odd couple who just might fuck when you least expect them to. Another unexpected dimension to the film comes when Buck meets Sam (Paul Weitz), a talentless actor whom Buck can't resist casting in his play because of his resemblance to Chuck. Buck's walk on the dark side with Sam flirts with melodrama, allowing the audience to see Buck's obsessions through the prism of a doppelgänger. White notes that Sam "is kind of Buck's mirror image in a more heterosexual bent. [Sam's] fraught with a lot of anger and frustration at being denied the object of his desires, so he has this very twisted relationship with women. In a way it's kind of the reverse coin of what Buck's up to. They're a good match for each other and would wind up as buddies, if not a typical love interest."

Buck writes a children's play that evokes the Eden of his boyhood affair with Chuck and the pain he feels, banished from that paradise. White says, "We were careful not to turn Buck into an idiot savant. It's not like his play is any revolution in artistry. In the most obvious ways, Buck is trying to use the play to get Chuck back into his life." The device of the play also allows White and Arteta to have two female mentoring characters: Chuck's girlfriend Carlyn (Beth Colt) and the director of Buck's play, Beverly (Lupe Ontiveros). While Carlyn is perplexed by Buck's childlike behavior towards her boyfriend, she doesn't play off clichés of jealousy, and along with Beverly serves as a catalyst for the unexpected and cathartic climax.

Tube travel

Miquel Arteta and Mike White come to their collaboration partly through the portal of television. Arteta has directed episodes of the teen comedy *Freaks and Geeks*, for which White last season served as supervising producer. They share a weariness with the conventions of series television, which flatten out and remove quirky traits from TV characters. Networks fear such traits might be a barrier to maximizing out audience shares and prof-

its.

Arteta's first feature film, *Star Maps*, is a dark excursion into the violent machismo of a Mexican patriarch who brutally prostitutes his estranged son, and in the process stirs up buried memories of childhood abuse. *Star Maps* confronts the dilemmas of Hispanic-American life unsentimentally, and its almost Gothic tragedy is in stark contrast to the comforting barrio clichés served up by such "adult" shows as Showtime's *Resurrection Blvd.* Arteta says a personal story like *Star Maps* is a great vehicle for describing your culture without "telling the world that this is what the Latino reality is like."

White's path to *C&B* was paved by the security and frustration of two seasons as supervising producer and head writer of the WB's pioneering teen drama *Dawson's Creek*. In some metaphorical way, Buck's refusal to surrender his childhood at age 27 can be seen as a writer's revenge for creating dialogue for faux teenage characters mostly played by twentysomething actors. (In *Dawson's* trademark self-parodying style, a child given to "16"-year-old Pacey Witter to mentor compliments Pacey on his "five o'clock shadow.")

White complains with perhaps faux bitterness of bending his talent to the task of creating an unbelievably heroic cast of squeaky clean and righteous teens. In the beginning, Dawson Leary was the sun around which other, sometimes naughtier characters like Pacey revolved. (Pacey debuted by sleeping with his female English teacher and spitting in the face of an older male teacher who was bullying a gay friend of Pacey's.) But, White sighs, the denizens of the Creek gradually became too good to be true, or fun to write.

"Dawson was supposed to be an idealized vision of what a teenage boy should be, and that is a very uninteresting character to write for. But over time, the producers wanted all the characters to be these heroic, larger-than-life characters, so Pacey transformed from the kind of sidekick quirky rebel to a kind of hero in his own right. By the time I left that show, they were all Dawson replicas, and I literally could not relate to any of those characters. I knew I had to jump ship." ▼

Chuck & Buck opens Friday in the Bay Area.

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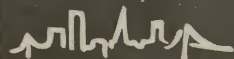
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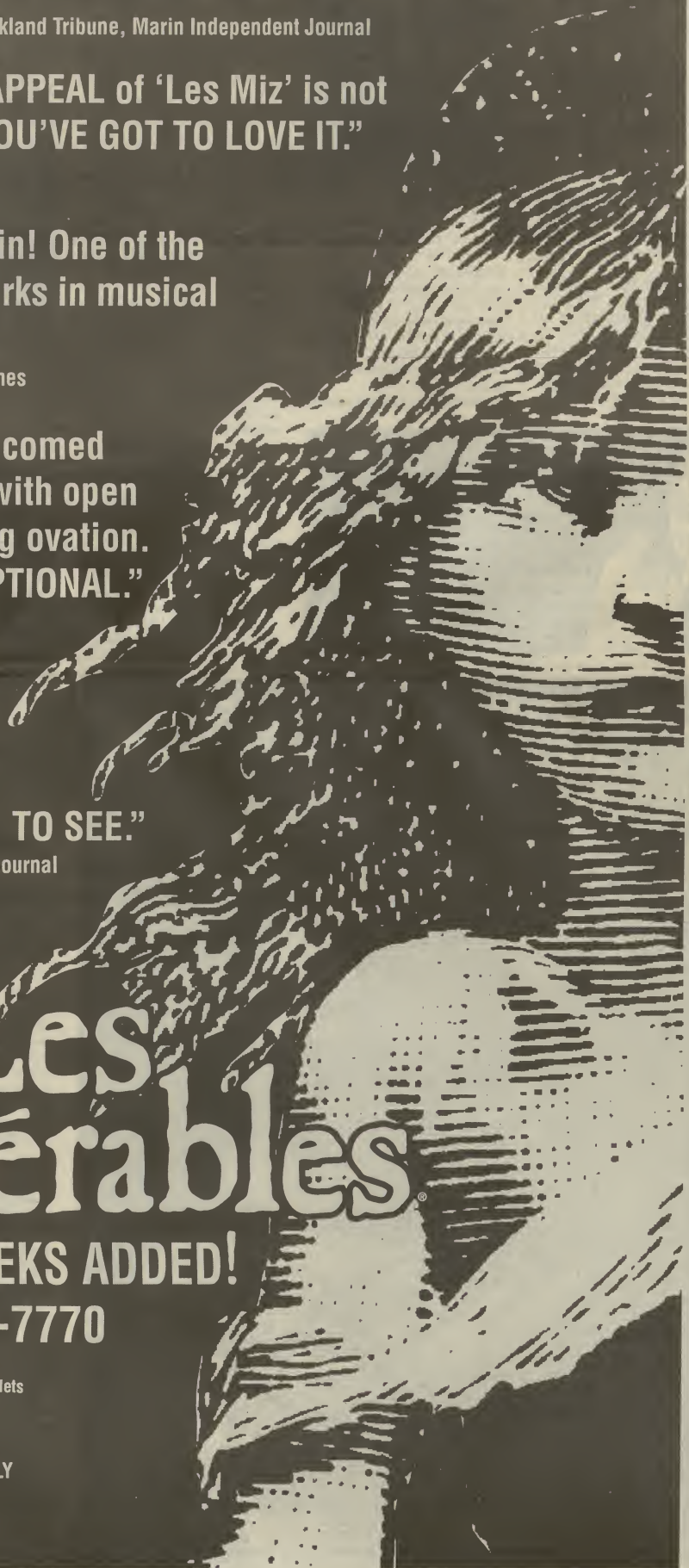
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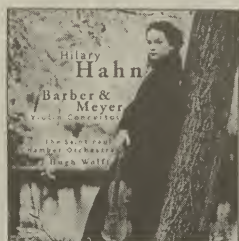
by Philip Campbell

Summertime, and the entertainment is easy. Concerts go "Pops," books are for the beach, and the movies become a parade of mindlessly diverting action pics. Even the recording industry slows down, as if anything too serious would somehow spoil the fun.

Still, San Francisco stays cool enough to allow for a bit of cerebral activity, and some new compact disc releases strike a happy medium between easy and thoughtful listening.

Barber & Meyer Violin Concertos — Hilary Hahn, violin, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra/Hugh Wolff (Sony Classical)

After a difficult genesis, the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto (1939) has become a popular staple of the American concert reper-



toire. The artist who commissioned it deemed the final movement "unplayable" and finally gave up all performance rights.

Since that initial misunderstanding, the Concerto has become one of the most frequently played and recorded of 20th-century showpieces. Every modern violinist of renown has given it a go, and there are at least three good versions currently available on disc.

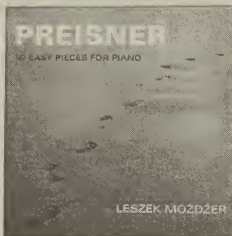
Nineteen-year-old Hilary Hahn

is the latest to explore the beautiful melodies of the opening Allegro (a little too lyrical and sensuous, really, for the composer to give it that tempo marking) and the central Andante, so full of yearning and angst. The Presto finale is a mercurial tour de force that holds no fear for Hahn's sweet-toned brilliance. Her technique is less obviously dramatic than Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's or Gil Shaham's, but more full-blooded than Joshua Bell's. Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman have both given us more exuberant accounts, but in the consciously enhanced delicacy of this latest release, Hilary Hahn proves a delightful and refreshing surprise.

What may tip the scales in her favor is the world premiere recording of virtuoso bassist and composer Edgar Meyer's Violin Concerto. Like Barber, Meyer's lyrical gift could be called romantic, but his music is more idiomatically American, and he manages to sound pleasingly contemporary without sacrificing tonality. The slight tinge of folk-like melody that pervades what amounts to a flowing set of variations in two movements is instantly accessible and begs for repeated hearings.

The use of a chamber orchestra brings a new transparency to the lushness of Barber's invention and a fitting lightness to the catchy rusticity of Meyer's dazzling exercise. The recorded sound

is wonderful, but Hahn is placed a bit too close to the microphone for concert hall realism. She does scale down at times to achieve a true pianissimo, so the complaint is minor. A fine young artist has been given a fine new concerto to display her musical gift.



Zbigniew Preisner — 10 Easy Pieces for Piano; Leszek Mozdzierz, piano (EMI Classics)

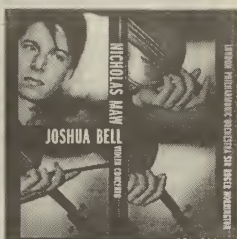
Known primarily as Poland's leading film composer, due to his exquisite collaborations with the late director Krzysztof Kieslowski, Zbigniew Preisner is also gaining recognition for his increasingly ambitious concert works. That is not to say his scores for *The Double Life of Veronika*; *Three Colors: Blue, White and Red*; and *Dekalog* are anything less than serious and advanced compositions, but his first large-scale piece for concert performance, *Requiem for My Friend* (Kieslowski), alerted the world to a promising new trend in the composer's career.

Anyone who has thrilled to the haunting beauty of Preisner's gift for orchestration, and his use of soprano Elzbieta Towarnicka's voice on the soundtrack of *Veronika*, will doubtless have noticed his contributions to Louis Malle's *Damage* and Hector Babenco's *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*. Now we are given a new insight into this intriguing writer with the release of *10 Easy Pieces for Piano*.

Preisner wanted to show a lighter side to his character after the majestic scale of the *Requiem*, and there are more than a few moments when this all-too-brief collection veers perilously close to New Age noodling. The improvisations of pianist Keith Jarrett come to mind, especially the *Köln Concert*. Preisner even proclaims the influence, but just as Jarrett alternately thrilled and lulled us, Preisner also shows a remarkable ingenuity. These may be "easy" pieces, but they are deceptively simple and full of wit.

There are times when the listener is unsure of whether he is hearing Erik Satie or Edward

MacDowell, yet the effect is truly original. At just 53 minutes, *10 Easy Pieces* is still a gratifying and pleasantly reflective experience. Leszek Mozdzierz is a skilled player, and the recording is truthful. Undemanding, perhaps, but curiously satisfying. Preisner has given us a real summertime gift.



Nicholas Maw Violin Concerto — Joshua Bell, violin; London Philharmonic Orchestra/Sir Roger Norrington (Sony Classical)

Perhaps the most heavyweight of the current releases, Nicholas Maw's beautiful new concerto could hardly be called a crossover classic. Still, Joshua Bell is a crossover superstar, and his name alone should assure its popular success.

I have been loving Maw's journey to tonality ever since hearing his breathtaking *Life Studies* for strings some years back, and I have continued in my admiration even through his later and altogether more daunting *Odyssey* — at an hour and 40 minutes, maybe the longest continuous span of orchestral music yet written.

The Violin Concerto is a much more manageable length, just under 45 minutes, and while it is mostly meditative, there are moments of passionate release. Written for Bell, but only publicly performed twice thus far, Maw's invention seems perfectly suited for CD listening. The lyricism of the writing and many fine melodies require repeated hearings to yield their mysteries, but it is a beautifully constructed piece, and Bell is a terrific advocate.

Skip the horribly pretentious program notes (Maw is a latter-day Brahms, uh-huh), and just let the mood sink in. One critic has called the Concerto magical, and the cumulative effect is indeed enchanting. The style is approachable but unique. Maw is surely an acquired taste, and I can't recommend him to the unadventurous; still, something wonderful is happening in his Violin Concerto, and if you like Joshua Bell, you won't want to miss this one. ▼

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Backstage

◀ page 32

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Dramatic dykes

You wouldn't expect any other city to be home to "the only festival of short plays by and about lesbians," now would you? Luna Sea Women's Performance Project is presenting its second annual DykeDrama Festival, beginning this week in its theater on 16th Street near South Van Ness.

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bian playwrights from around the country will be presented in two parts staged on alternate weeks.

Part I (July 14-16 and 27-29) includes *Red Wait* by Amy Kirk, *Sistahs* by Sharon Mareka Lewis and Maxine Bailey, *To Be Loved* by Tatiana de la Tierra, and *L.B.D. (Lesbian Bed Death)* by Trish Cole.

Part II (July 21-23 and Aug. 3-5) includes *Marla's Devotion* by Linda Eisenstein, *My Grandmother's Play* by Elana Dykewomon, *Butch and Fennie* by Shirlene Holmes, and *Choose the One You Want* by Luna Sea executive director Claudia L. Vierra Allen.

For more information call 863-2989. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Stardust sociology

by Alex Robertson Textor

I Married an Earthling by Alvin Orloff; Manic D Press, \$13.95.

I should start by confessing a bias: I hate science fiction. I really do, with very few exceptions. Anything that so much as touches on the trappings or conventions of the genre makes my eyes glaze over. It's my problem. I just don't give sci-fi a chance. But *I Married an Earthling's* dramas are enticing, with enough of an entertaining narrative and smartly coifed commentary to appeal to sci-fi haters like myself.

I Married an Earthling is Alvin Orloff's first novel, though he has cut his teeth on various other literary projects. Orloff co-authored Bambi Lake's memoir *The Unsinkable Bambi Lake*, and has published in and written for a range of 'zines and magazines.

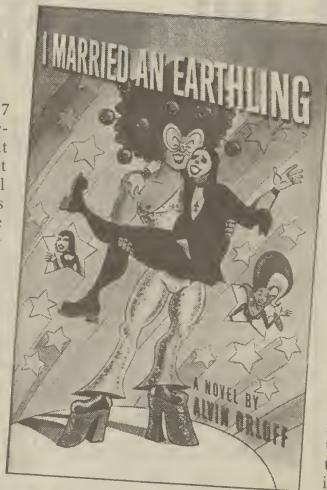
Earthling is sharp commentary in the form of high camp. Even the dressing of the book is camp, from the Maurice Vellekoop cover

illustration to the back cover blurb by filmmaker Bruce LaBruce. LaBruce praises the novel for its artful navigation of "the treacherous space between camp excess and smart cultural observation." Woo-hoo. I'm not sure how "treacherous" this space actually is, but certainly it's rare to find such erudite and analytical displays of biting camp logic.

Earthling's narrative bounces back and forth between Chester Julian, an outcast gay goth teenager living in a characterless California suburb, and Norvex 7, a professor of Earth Studies from the planet Zeeron. In his suburb, Chester is the consummate fag loser, and is teased and attacked mercilessly. On his planet, Norvex 7 has made a name for himself as a terraphile. Full of praise for earthly popular culture, Norvex 7 is convinced that Earth is civilizing quickly. His evidence rests in the glossiest forms of popular culture, and includes Bananarama and the Spice Girls, the B-52s and *Bewitched*, John Waters and *Gillian's Island*.

Earthling follows Norvex 7 — accompanied by his hairdresser, Veeba 22, and a plant specialist from a nearby planet — to Earth. They interrupt all communication transmissions to broadcast their arrival. Once they touch down, they are placed in the custody of the United Nations and do the visiting celebrity circuit: the UN General Assembly, talk shows, parties. They are threatened by religious conservatives. On Earth, few believe that they're actually from another planet.

In California, Chester writes Dear Diary accounts of his experiences with school, his teen sitcom star brother, his best friend Daphne, and his eventual migration to San Francisco to live with a former stepmother. The funniest parts of *Earthling* cluster around Chester's attempts to find a boyfriend in San Francisco. Chester's youth and inexperience express themselves in an extreme lack of judgment. Chester gravitates toward speed-freak hustler



mercialism, sexual conservatism, gender conformity, religious fervor, denial of underage sexuality. There are points where the narrative itself seems like little more than a detail to a more basic analytic core — its Oscar Wildean critiques of contemporary society, in which artifice, surface, aesthetics, nonviolence, libertinism and recreation are valued over authenticity, depth, utilitarianism, militarism, discipline and the denial of pleasure.

Orloff updates Wilde by turning his focus toward New Age philosophies, assailing both the legacies of work-ethic Protestantism and New Age spiritualism side by side. Earnestness of any sort is seen as counterproductive, and the will to party is figured as the death of the will to kill. It's no accident that Manic D Press chose to market *Earthling* as both "fiction" and "gay studies." Whatever genre *Earthling* belongs to, you can enjoy it for its cultural politics or for its madcap distractions. ▼

clubkids who can't concentrate long enough to have a coherent conversation.

Norvex 7 and Chester don't meet until the close of the novel, at which point they fall in love and go interplanetary. At the center of *Earthling* is a sustained criticism of dominant American values: com-

Time Regained

◀ Arts cover

Swann, and the film was just barely saved by Alain Delon as the decadent and gay Baron de Charlus. Percy Adlon's *Celeste* (1981) wasn't based on the novel but on the memoir of the same name by the writer's maid. It was a lot better — touching, superbly acted, and wonderfully evocative.

Ruiz's *Time Regained* is all of those things and much more. And his cast includes Catherine Deneuve, Vincent Perez, Emmanuelle Béart and John Malkovich in the plum part of Charlus.

Charlus is just one of many gay characters in the book, and Proust, being gay, certainly knew the territory. He cast himself as the narrator of the story, a certain Marcel who observes the other characters, floating back and forth in time with them. Marcello Mazarrella, who plays him in the film, is a dead ringer for the author: elegant, inquisitive, and politely differential to others.

Rent talk

Ruiz stages some very powerful and funny scenes at the male

brothel owned by Charlus, especially one in which the Baron plays some of the rent boys who work there, who just moments before were seen playing cards and gossiping about the merits of their clients. We also get inside the relationship between Charlus and the handsome violinist Morel (they're on the outs), Vincent Perez in a moody, petulant performance. Malkovich goes a long way towards suggesting the complex nature of human behavior which Proust charts so cogently in the book, his point always being that our natures shift, we're never the same way twice.

Perceptions change, too, as in the scene where the narrator remembers himself as a boy visiting the home of the former courtesan Odette de Crécy (Catherine Deneuve) and her husband (and former lover) Charles Swann (Bernard Pairet). Sandwiched in-between are other scenes of his youth, including ones with his girlfriend Gilberte, played by Emmanuelle Béart, who's as stunningly beautiful and moving here as she was in Claude Sautet's films *Un Coeur en Hiver* (1992) and *Nelly and M. Arnaud* (1994).

The fluidity needed in any Proust film is principally provided

by cinematographer Ricardo Aronovich, and his lighting looks perfect here, warmly sensual, moodily atmospheric, or cool. Ruiz also gets his customary surreal touches in, which work much better here than in his film *On Top of the Whale* (1984), where they looked arty and contrived. I should also mention his script done in collaboration with Gilles Taurand, which never dumbs down the material; the original score by Jorge Arriagada, which gives the film mystery and tension; and the costumes by Gabriella Pesucci and Caroline De Vivaise, which range from the Belle Epoque to post-WWI. The book is complex and profound, and this film translation gets Proust right. ▼

Time Regained plays the Castro Theatre July 13-19.



A scene from Raul Ruiz's *Time Regained*

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by Tavo Amador

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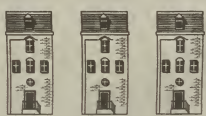
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Tallulah. Joe and Marilyn. Ethel and Mary. Orson. The Duke and Duchess. Cary. Joan and Bette. Hitchcock. Lucy and Desi. Above all, Winchell. These are just some of the legends who drank, dined, danced, and dished at the Stork Club, the fabled Manhattan nightclub on East 53rd Street created by the visionary and tyrannical Sherman Billingsley. Unfortunately, Ralph Blumenthal's *The Stork Club: America's Most Famous Nightspot and the Lost World of Café Society* (Little, Brown; \$25.95) is as superficial and impressionistic a history of an era and a place as many of the evenings spent there must have been.

The tale of how the Oklahoma-born Billingsley, jailed for bootlegging during Prohibition, opened the Stork Club and made it the place for the beau monde, more fashionable than competing legends 21 and El Morocco, should be gripping reading for gossip mavens and social historians. But its impact is diffused. It's thorough where it should be brief, and skims where analysis is needed.

Blumenthal does show how brilliantly Billingsley promoted his creation. The famous Stork Club ashtrays were just one bit of merchandising. Favored customers received Sortilege Perfume, Havana cigars, champagne, ties, and other gifts. Leading journalists rarely saw a check, and top society figures often had their parties on the house. Patrons were grateful: "The Duchess and I and our friends are enjoying the fine contents of the two cases and appreciate your thought of us a great deal," wrote the Duke of Windsor. "You are an incredible man," scribed Cary Grant. Joan Crawford penned her appreciation "for being so gracious to the children and to me." Despite these extravagances, the club, in its prime, made huge sums of money.

Billingsley owned the building where the Stork nested, bought a large East Side townhouse, and lavished gifts on his three daughters. (His niece, Barbara, played June Cleaver on television's *Leave It To Beaver*.)

Although married, Billingsley courted Ethel Merman, creating the Stork's Cub Room for her. She was his grand amour, but he remained emotionally — if not physically — loyal to his second wife, Hazel.

For years, Walter Winchell broadcast his radio program from the Stork and plugged it. J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson, whom Billingsley called Hoover's "wife," were once regulars. Joseph L. Mankiewicz filmed a climatic scene in *All About Eve* (1950) there. The club's success required full-time attention and faced on-going problems. Billingsley fought gangsters like Dutch Schultz and Frank Costello to keep the Stork out of their cages; he warred against corrupt unions and faced pickets and sabotage for years, despite winning court decrees to end union organizing attempts.

Baker incident

His most celebrated battle was with Josephine Baker, the African-American, St. Louis-born singer and dancer who became a Paris sensation in the '20s. In 1951, the bisexual Baker and her married female lover, Bessie Allison Buchanan, an African-American dancer who later became New



York State's first black Assemblywoman, and two white friends claimed they had received poor service because of their race. Stories conflict about what actually happened, but Baker and her party stormed out of the club, and notoriety followed. Baker accused Winchell of racism, although he had not been at the club that night and had ceaselessly supported efforts to end discrimination. Hoover and the FBI offered help to Billingsley, since they had a file on Baker's supposed fascism, which Winchell made public. (In the '30s, she had supported Mussolini's war against Ethiopia.) Blumenthal sees the beginnings of the

Stork's end in the Baker incident, but doesn't prove it.

For five years in the 1950s, Billingsley broadcast a weekly television show from the club, despite being an inarticulate and unimaginative host. One night he asked Bette Davis about the differences in performing in films, on stage, and on television. She replied tartly, "There's absolutely no comparison." They still had nearly three minutes of air time to kill, and Billingsley couldn't think of anything more to ask.

By the end of the decade, the rich and famous who had made up the first generation of Café Society were aging, and the '60s ushered in the discotheque era. Billingsley, in a desperate attempt to stay current, replaced his live dance band with a disco room, but it didn't help. The world had changed, and he had not. Sadly, Blumenthal provides little analysis of the reasons behind this change. Instead, he spends too much time on Billingsley's frantic measures to keep the club open and his declining health.

He died in 1966, a year after the club closed. He left enormous debts and depleted his daughters' trust funds in vain efforts to keep the Stork flying over Manhattan. His death brought an outpouring of sympathy, but he had become an anachronism even before he closed his creation and sold the building to William Paley, who demolished it, planting a small park in its place. ▼

Buff and bothered

by Robert Julian

The Adonis Complex by Harrison G. Pope, Jr., MD, Katharine A. Phillips, MD, and Roberto Olivardia, Ph.D.; The Free Press, \$25

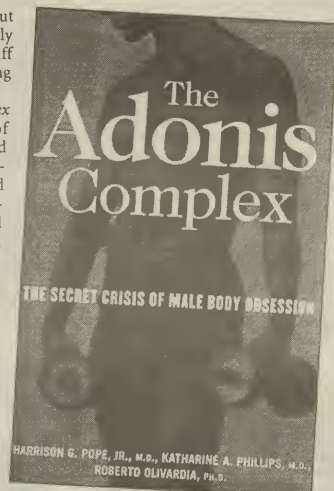
Post-liberation gay males ran with a vengeance from demeaning queer stereotypes and headed straight for the Nautilus machines. And as the '70s ended, the gay male body type was already evolving toward the overly muscled apparitions drawn by Tom of Finland. Although the authors of *The Adonis Complex* do not acknowledge the queer genesis of our current cultural obsession with the muscled male torso, the fallout of this obsession is intelligently detailed by the work of two medical doctors and one psychologist.

The doctors define the "Adonis Complex" as the "overconcern, dissatisfaction, or outright obsession with body image." And the convincing data collected in their work comes from studies of body-builders as well as an analysis of cultural iconography as it relates to the presentation of the male body. The authors conclude that in the '90s, a man's body became "the defining source" of his masculine self-concept. Somewhat ironically, men who first discovered the body craze, and are now in their 40s and 50s, are less likely to fall into a pathological body obsessiveness than those in their 20s. The early pioneers passed through adolescence when images of masculinity were usually fully clothed

and gyms were rare. But today's young teens only know a world where buff is beautiful and anything less is failure.

The Adonis Complex details the evolution of this consciousness and its impact on young people in particular. Steroid use, and the abandonment of personal and professional goals in favor of gym time, are common problems when the Adonis Complex reaches its most pathological manifestation. This is a psychological disorder defined as "bigorexia nervosa," a form of "body dysmorphic disorder." In these extreme but not uncommon cases, men feel their bodies or body parts are too small, even when they are huge to the point that many women perceive them as grotesque. Despite their constant use of drugs, nutritional supplements, and daily workouts, their self-concept is that of a puny, inadequate soul. It is a problem that impacts gay men and straight men with the same frequency. And according to the authors, gay men may have a treatment advantage in their ability to discuss their body obsession with others in a way that straight men often cannot.

For the most severe cases, the authors prescribe psychiatric treatment, with or without medication. But in an effort to stem



the tide, they also offer several astute recommendations for enlightened consciousness about this problem. It helps not to buy into the media images, to recognize that most of the hypermasculine bodies you see in posing straps are the product of anabolic steroids (drugs), and to understand that a vast industry profits from making you feel insecure about your body. *The Adonis Complex* occasionally states what is already obvious to many gay men, but in its ability to detail and define a relatively unexplored area of male psychological dysfunction, this work can be of great service to society. ▼

TELEVISION

Voyeur vérité

Reality TV rates big on the tube this summer

by Victoria A. Brownworth

If you've been vacationing off the planet this summer (or are in the Big Brother Compound or on that island in the South China Sea), you might have missed America's latest craze, reality TV. Shows like *Survivor*, *Big Brother*, *Making the Band* and *1900 House* have generated great ratings and even greater hype.

CBS's *Survivor* is the first show to knock ABC's wildly popular *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* out of the top Nielsen spot in a year. CBS executives hope their new entry into the peep-show playground, *Big Brother*, which debuted July 6 and airs four times a week, will feed the public's newfound lust for must-see TV.

It hardly needs stating that television-watching is a spectator sport. "Couch potato" and "channel surfer" were both coined in response to the vicarious experience of passive viewing. But the new trend toward reality-based programming takes the viewer further into the realm of vicarious experience. Reality TV has a new concept: rather than dramatizing or humorizing the lives of fictional characters who resemble real people, reality TV takes real people and puts them in settings that create both drama and humor. The result, the ratings declare, is captivating.

Reality TV isn't as new as the current programming might suggest. Comedian Allan Funt was one progenitor of reality TV. His show *Candid Camera* debuted in the late '50s and remained on the air for over a decade. Funt put people in unusual situations and then televised their actions — much like *Big Brother*, except the participants in *Candid Camera* didn't know they were being filmed. The audience for the popular show tuned in to watch ordinary people in extraordinary situations. Apparently the attraction remains as dynamic today as it was 40 years ago.

But it was the '70s PBS series *An American Family* that put the camera 24/7 into an average home and fed the unfiltered dynamics back to the audience. For a year PBS filmed the Loud family as they laughed and cried. Viewers saw marital tensions, the melodrama of adolescence, and the coming out of son Lance on national television. Some critics called the program prurient, and others called it groundbreaking; either way, people watched.

In the '80s and '90s, different attempts were made at reality TV. *The World's Funniest Home Videos* urged people to be both audience and actor. MTV's *The Real World* hooked Gen Xers on viewing themselves, and shows like *Cops* and *Mounties* nabbed viewers with cinema vérité of petty crimes and pettier criminals. Jerry Springer, Jenny Jones and Sally Jessy took the talk TV format and ratcheted up the reality quotient to the point of melodrama.

We feel their pain

Call it empathy TV; watching other people not unlike one's self in awkward, embarrassing or painful situations makes one's own problems more bearable. You might be behind on the mortgage, but at least you weren't being arrested on national TV or being told your spouse cheats in front of

a live audience. Such programming, while termed sleazy by most critics, gave the audience a solid basis for comparison with their own lives. The participants weren't actors whose problems would be resolved by the end of the hour. They were real — and ordinary — people, with what comedian Chris Rock calls "real people problems, not celebrity problems." These shows thus engendered a collective sense of, "There but for the grace of God ..."

The new reality shows take an approach that combines Funt's early tactics with a little of the PBS vérité and some Jerry Springer privacy shattering. The result is highly engaging TV.

The set-ups for these programs are elaborate. For *1900 House*, a house from the period had to be retrofitted to the era, down to the most mundane details like wall stencil, and a family was chosen to inhabit the house for three months and live exactly as people

lived in 1900: dress, activities, food, hygiene (or lack of). The resultant PBS series has been fascinating, as much for the interpersonal dynamics of the TV family as for allowing the audience a real sense of what life was like then for

live for three months in a house they cannot leave (except to use the exercise yard and tend the vegetable garden), with no contact with the outside world, thus utterly reliant on each other for entertainment, companionship, emo-

body mic while awake.

Some reality TV offers incentives. *Making the Band* provides fame, if not fortune. The five young men chosen from the first crop of applicants get to become the new 'N Synch or Back Street Boys. On *Big Brother*, the participants are vying to outlast each other and win \$500,000. Every two weeks, the house members must choose two people to leave. TV viewers then pick one of those two via phone and Internet.

Survivor deposits 16 castaways on a deserted island in the South China Sea, where, through a series of challenges and secret votes, one person is ejected each week. The survivor wins \$1 million. The popularity of *Survivor* has engendered both fascination and network sour grapes. ABC has responded with many jabs at *Survivor*, including a reporter who infiltrated the island to discuss the details of the place in an effort to

page 43 ►

New reality TV shows being imported for the fall line-up make the rat-eating, larva-chomping and dogfood-cooking of 'Survivor' look tame. With money and fame as incentives, people do anything.

women, men and children, the vast changes only a century has wrought, and the many things that have remained the same.

Big Brother required less preparation, but has its own elaborate configurations. Ten people must

tional support, sex and all other aspects of human interaction. Every action and conversation is videotaped. The specially built *Big Brother* compound has 25 cameras and 60 microphones, plus each house member must wear a

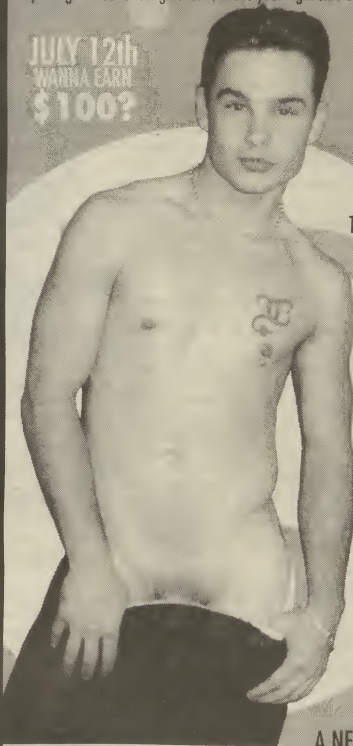
AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST

Every Wednesday at 9pm is the Amateur Strip Contest at the New Meat Campus. All contestants receive a free video for their show of skin. The winner gets a \$100 prize and a chance to appear as a New Meat dancer.

HOT LAVA

Hot Lava is every Saturday from 8pm to 2am, featuring live DJs spinning the raunchiest grooves to make your night smolder.

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The Dot-Cum Lounge and Smoke and Mirrors, a queer internet and multimedia giant are offering classes starting in July in the only clothing optional, sex friendly computer room in the world. Want to learn Photoshop, web page design or Flash but didn't want to go to one of those stodgy schools? Well here is your chance. Come in to the New Meat Campus and pick up a class menu. You'll even learn how to put a six-pack on that photo of you before you send it to that guy you have been chatting with across the ocean.



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SKIN GANG
1pm, 6pm

VINTAGE NIGHT
9:30pm

PEEPERS
1pm, 6pm & 9:30pm

HOT LAVA
8pm-2am

GET OFF
1pm, 6pm

BEST OF GEISHA BOYS
9:30pm

PHOENIX RISING
1pm, 6pm

NEW MEAT 19
9:30pm

BIG CUBAN DICKS
1pm, 6pm

GRAPK ART BONDAGE
9:30pm

AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST
9:30pm

OUT&ABOUT



Chris Cuomo and Kim Hall discuss *Whiteness* at Boadecia Books and Mama Bear's Books. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Books 'n' art

The muses have put their heads together and decided this Saturday, July 15, is when we all must stroll through this city's fine-art galleries and browse among the offerings at a quality book fair. Two summery events have been serendipitously scheduled for the day; by participating in either or both, not only can you avail yourselves of some visual and literary delights, coupled with crowds of fellow Bohemians, but you can demonstrate your vital support for independent galleries and bookstores.

For those particularly in love with the written word, Pier 32 is the destination of first choice. The cavernous old building situated on the Embarcadero (at Brannan St., near Pac Bell Park) will be the site of the fifth annual "**Books by the Bay**" happening, beginning at 10 a.m. and filled with author readings, children's activities, and booths until 4 p.m. Entry is free and open to all. Some 35 local booksellers will be on hand displaying their wares and proudly showing off the authors of the books they like best. The shindig is produced by the **Northern California Independent Booksellers Association**, which is, in their own words, "a trade organization dedicated to supporting, nurturing and promoting independent retail bookselling in California. With over 600 members, including more than 300 booksellers, the NCIBA has been an experienced provider of services for over two decades."

Among the booksellers participating in the event are many of our favorites, such as City Lights, A Different Light, Modern Times, Get Lost Travel Books, Green Apple Books, and stores affiliated with Nolo Press, Sierra Club, Strybing Arboretum, and Monterey Bay Aquarium.

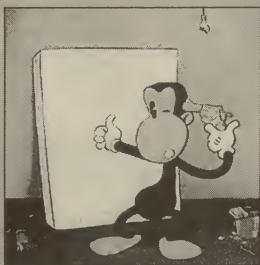
Authors appearing at the bookfest include William J. Mann, who introduces his readers to *The Biograph Girl*, the world's first movie star (Mann will also read at A Different Light; see Friday listing). On hand as well will be Julia Butterfly Hill, Michael Chabon, Chitra Divakaruni, Philip Levine, Eddie Fisher, Michael McClure, Peggy Orenstein, Whitney Otto, Thomas Sanchez, Orville Schell, Rachel Naomi Remen, Liza Dalby, and Pat Murphy.

For more information, surf www.BooksByTheBay.com.

If shapes and images lure you more than words, you can begin your Saturday outing with the "**A Summer Afternoon Art Walk/Introductions 2000**," a pleasant, sociable way to get to know your local galleries and artists. Organized by the **San Francisco Art Dealers Association**, the Art Walk takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., during which time many of our classiest dealers will be showing off their wares.

Taking part are **Braunstein/Quay Gallery** (430 Clementina St. at 5th St.), **Catharine Clark Gallery**, **Sweetow Gallery**, and **Robert Koch Gallery** (all at 49 Geary St.), **Modernism** (685 Market St.), **Jernigan Wicker Fine Art** (161 Natoma), and a host of others. Most are within reasonable walking distance from one another downtown, with a few sprinkled a brisk stroll away.

For more information, phone 626-7498. ▼



Mental Block, by James Thomas Neely, at Jernigan Wicker Fine Art

Fri 14

Books Inc.

Michelle Tea & Clint Catalyst speak out on their "Pills, Chills, Thrills & Heartache Tour," subtitled "what happens when a punk rock chick & a prancy boy hit the road in search of new writing material." Catalyst, an Arkansas transplant, does spoken-word for bands, movies, and corporate advertisers (Levi's, Absolut, Esquire), holds a Master's in Writing from USF, and now resides in LA (though he "left his nasty i.v. drug habit" in SF). He's the author of *Cottonmouth Kisses*, new from SF's Manic D Press. Tea, in her latest novel, *Valencia* (Seal Press), turns her gaze on her adopted home, SF's Mission District, "crawling with young dykes in passionate pursuit of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll." Free. 4pm. 2275 Market St. (The tour continues on July 17 at *The Bearded Lady*, 485 14th St., 7:30pm, \$3-\$5 sliding; and July 18 at *Roderick's Chamber*, 715 Harrison St., 10pm, \$4 b4 10pm, \$8 after.)

A Different Light

William J. Mann reads from *The Biograph Girl*, based on the true story of Florence Lawrence, who started acting in moving pictures in 1906 and became the world's first movie star. Mann recreated her life from archival records and other sources. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Broadway BallBusters," the return engagement of the fast-paced musical revue created by Eric Brizee and Alan Fricke. A 90-minute gay musical comedy on how men enthrall, charm, seduce and exploit one another. Featuring show tunes from great and not-so-great musicals. With J. Guevara and Gary Wayne Farris, plus Scott Stewart on piano. \$15-\$20.

KALW (91.7 FM)

Outright Radio presents "Uncommon Stories from Queer Folks," a new half-hour, national LGBT radio broadcast. Tonight's program: "Patrick's Loyalties," the true story of a young man who grew up in an all gay family and, after years of estrangement from his reckless father, returns to take care of him while he's dying of AIDS. Produced by David Gilmore. 7:30pm. Info: www.OutrightRadio.org

Venue 9

Footloose presents Karen Goldstein in "Born Free," her one-woman show with text, video and dance. It tells the story of Kate, who fantasizes she's part of a special group of goddesses whose talent is to bring men back into their bodies and hearts and the land of the living. She is most alive, happy and satisfied when unclothed, expressing her pure joy in front of God and everyone. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru July 23. Info: 289-2000; www.ft-loose.org

Jon Sims Center

AI/Space artist-in-residence Rachel Short performs a workshop production of "Lulu and other Heavenly Creatures," a ritualistic performance examining the universals of birth, death and rebirth, drawing on mythologies ranging from the Egyptian *Book of the Dead* to the Bible. Discussion with Short follows. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFO). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: www.jonsimsc-tr.org

Cowell Theater

"Summerfest/Dance 2000," presenting four world premieres by Steamroller, Lea Wolf, Stephen Pelton Dance Theater, and Chris Black/Potrzebie. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

ODC Theater

"A Horse's Mouth Greeted the New Millennium: A Celebration of Life in Dance," a premiere dance piece by Tina Croll and James Cunningham,

featuring some 45 dancers (about 20 each evening) documenting their lives through dance and story. Among the dancers are Joe Goode, Remy Charlip, Robert Moses, Krissy Keefer, John Killackey, Deborah Slater, Brenda Way, and Margaret Jenkins. \$15. 8pm. Also on July 15. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Sat 15

El Rio

"Mission Creek Music Festival," featuring live music 3-8pm on the patio with Nickel Beer Riot, Wandering Stars, Touched by a Janitor, Virgal Shaw, Marcus Shelby and Persophone's Bees. Continuing at 10pm with Ruma Saki, Ralph Corney, Zmrzina, and Live Humans. \$8 all day. El Rio is a neighborhood bar with a culturally, racially and sexually mixed clientele. 21+ w/ID. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez & Valencia). 282-3325.

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

"Beneficio a la Caminata del SIDA," the monthly potluck and party for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. Held at a private home in San Francisco. For details, call Javier at 550-0388 or Andy at 522-1894.

Chinese Culture Center

Exhibition opening: "Small Wonders: Chinese Snuff Bottles from Bay Area Collectors." Initially used to store medicines, snuff bottles became all the rage for tobacco, and their design evolved into fine works of art made of glass, ivory, jade, gemstone, porcelain and other materials. This exhibition groups the snuff bottles into 21 themes, ranging from dragons to landscapes. Free. 10am-4pm. Open Tues.-Sun. 750 Kearny St., Holiday Inn, 3rd floor. Info: 986-1822.

SFMOMA

Opening: "Design Afoot: Athletic Shoes 1995-2000," organized by Aaron Betsky and Steven Skov Holt. A collection of the best running shoes, athletic shoes and outdoor footwear designed in the last five years. More than 150 shoes from a dozen companies, blurring the line between fashion footwear and high-performance shoes. Brand names abound. \$9 (\$6 seniors; \$5 students). 11am-6pm daily except Wed.; open till 9pm Thur. 151 Third St. 357-4000.

Zeum Courtyard

"Avant-Yard 2000: Challenge Their Ears!" presents the first of five free outdoor concerts throughout July, this week featuring the astounding Pamela Z, who mixes her voice with electronics, utilizing sensors on her body that translate her movements into sound. She builds textures of great beauty, combining operatic vocals with whispered sounds. Free. 1pm. Yerba Buena Gardens (4th St. at Howard). Info: www.zeum.org

Montclair Women's Cultural Center, Oakland

Acclaimed author and poet Dorothy Allison reads her works in an afternoon spoken word and music, includ-

ing an "Allison Song Cycle" by composer Elinor Armer. A benefit for Zyzzyva, one of the Bay Area's best literary journals. \$25 gen'l; \$50 reserved. 2:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix: (415) 752-5393.

Boadecia's Books, Kensington

Chris Cuomo, Kim Hall and Laurie Fuller read from and discuss *Whiteness: Feminist Philosophical Reflections*, edited by Cuomo and Hall. While some authors in this volume are critical of scholarly work focusing on whiteness, others argue that fighting racism requires interrogating and abandoning whiteness. Topics include anti-racist pedagogy, whiteness and masculinity, and the complexities of mixed race identity. Free. 7:30pm. 398 Colusa St., Kensington; 510-559-9184. (Also on Sunday, July 16, 3pm at *Mama Bear's Books*, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland; 510-428-9684.)

DragStrip @ King Street Garage

"5th Annual SF Drag King Contest," produced by Lu Read, a benefit for P.A.W.S. (Pets Are Wonderful Support). Who will be this year's over-the-top Pop? Hosted by Leigh Crow. Starring SF Drag King '99 Barry "Fresh" White, Jordan LaMoore, Fudge Frotage, and Crush Velvet. With celebrity judges Arty Fishal (SF Drag King '98), Connie Champagne, Johnny Kat, Chantal from

Mango/Red/Backstreet, and Riley Morgan from BABOYZ. Music by DJ Cari Campbell. Special event: a TrannyBoy Fashion Show. \$15 (\$10 b4 10pm; \$5 additional charge if not in appropriate attire). Dress code: Drag, High Femme, and Tranny. 9:30pm-2am. 174 King St. (at 3rd St.). Info: Lu Read at 282-5378.

Sun 16

Cowell Theater/ Ft. Mason

Summerfest/Dance 2000 presents "Dance Film Series," with screenings of historic dance footage of such legends as Erick Hawkins and Isadora Duncan. Curated by Cynthia Pepper. Today: "The Medium" (1996) by Mark Adam and Julia Adam, a meditation on the power and influence of television; "Erik Hawkins' American" (1988), a documentary about the master modern choreographer; and "The Red Shoes" (1948), starring Moira Shearer and Leonide Massine and featuring London's Royal Ballet. \$5 & \$1.2pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

CellSpace

"Expo for the Artist San Francisco 2000," in which more than 50 Bay Area arts service organizations will set up tables, including Visual Aid, Arthouse, Artspan, Film Arts Foundation, Artists' Television Access, 848 Community Space, the Werepad, Intersection for the Arts, Bay Area Video Coalition, Southern Exposure, Scroungers' Center for Re-Usable Art Parts (SCRAP), Ylem, Craig's List and many others. Workshops and presentations throughout the day. A chance for artists to network with organizations that provide arts services. 10am-4pm. 2050 Bryant St.

A Different Light

Mark Richard Zubro reads from *One Dead Drag Queen*, a story of murder and mayhem. Free. 7:30pm.

Old First Church

Old First Concerts presents "Brazil 500 Year Anniversary Concert," featuring the Latin American Chamber Music Society; Villa-Lobos chamber Orchestra; Ensemble Uirapuru, soprano Francine Lancaster, tenor Mark Hernandez, guitarist and vocalist



Chinese snuff bottles are the stuff of legend at the Chinese Culture Center. See Saturday.



Drag kings Barry "Fresh" White, Fudgie Frottag, Slim Sphinx, and Electro butch it up at DragStrip. See Saturday.

Mauro Correa and others. With music by Villa-Lobos, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Joao Gilberto and more. \$9 (\$7 students/seniors). 5pm. 1751 Sacramento St. (at Van Ness). 474-1608.

Mon 17

Piaf's

QComedy.com openly presents "Gay Comedy Showcase" hosted by Blake ("Dating Gayme"), with Ken Miller, Darren Blaney, David Guiney, Tessie Chua, Barbee Jean, Bob Douglas, Mary C. Matthews, Mike Miller, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

A Different Light

Chris Cuomo and Kim Hall read from and discuss *Whiteness: Feminist Philosophical Reflections*. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Tue 18

Café Du Nord

From out of Ohio via NYC comes artist and brooding singer/songwriter Joseph Arthur, whose haunting/hurt sounds grace his exceptional new album, *come to where I'm from*, on Peter Gabriel's Real World label. If his songs and his waif-like visage don't make your heart break, nothing will. Etienne de Rocher opens at 9pm;

Arthur performs at 10pm. \$7 cover. 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Wed 19

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf," a comedic retelling of the classic fairytale, written by Joseph Robinette; directed by Janna Sobel; performed by teenagers. Is the Wolf villain or victim? Are the three Pigs innocent or evil? The jurors (Miss Muffet, Cinderella, Bo Peep and Humpty-Dumpty) decide. For ages 5 and up. \$5 children (\$3 per youth for groups of 10 or more); \$7 adults. 11am. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market St.). Info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

McBean Theater, Exploratorium

"Ylem Forum: Preview of Burning Man 2000," presented by Ylem, a nonprofit organization for artists using science and technology. Speakers will discuss previous and forthcoming works of art for the late-summer outdoor festival of performance and installation art in the Nevada desert. Featured artists include Michael Sturtz, who will create a temporary molten metal foundry at BM; Jim Mason, who will create a puppet pageant; and Lisa Nigro, creator of the Flaming Metal Dragon. Free. 7:30pm. 3601 Lyon St. Info: www.ylem.org

Piaf's

Odd Girl Out Productions presents an evening of comedy with headliners Maureen Brownsey, Danny Williams, Dan Rothenberg and Amma, plus the Harvey Milk Institute Comedy Class of 2000. A benefit for an up-coming queer comedy website. \$8-\$1,000 sliding. 8:30pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 550-1660.

A Different Light

Former SF police officer Mitch Grobeson reads from *Outside the Badge*, his account of being gay and a cop. Free. 7:30pm.

ODC Theater

Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos Dance Company perform "Ritmos," a passionate series flamenco explorations. \$18. 8pm. Thru July 23. 3153 17th St. Info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org/theater

Bruno's

City of Tribes recording label hosts a CD release party for Beth Custer's latest, *Doña Luz 30 Besos* ("Lady Light 30 Kisses"). The album is her homage to all things Latin, from Manu Chao to Gilberto Gil. Custer, a founder of Trance Mission, Eighty Mile Beach, and Club Foot Orchestra is a vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. \$5. 9pm. Bruno's Restaurant, 2389 Mission St. 550-7455.

Thu 20

A Different Light

Will Roscoe reads from *Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in North America*, an examination of various gender identities in Native American cultures. Free. 7:30pm.

SFMOMA

Architecture Must Burn book-signing and debate. Author and SFMOMA curator of architecture, design and digital projects Aaron Betsky discusses his new book and debates the merits of modern architecture with architects Thom Mayne and Eric Owen Moss. *Architecture Magazine* editor-in-chief Reed Kroloff moderates. \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). Book signing 5:30-6:30 in the atrium (free); debate 7-9pm in the Phyllis Wattis theater. SF Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St. 357-4000.

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Spoken-word master Clint Catalyst, along with cohort Michelle Tea, galvanizes readers at Books Inc., The Bearded Lady, and Roderick's Chamber. See Friday.

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Hot time in the cities

by Mister Marcus

Even with the International Mister Leather contest and the major Gay Pride parades behind us, we are not forsaken. July through September will be chock full of events of interest to the leather tribe, including weekend bike runs, overnight runs, leather festivals, seminars, and yet more title contests.

For instance, the International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests loom in September, which isn't as far away as you might think, because in the meantime, Drummer regional contests will be taking place.

In fact, a couple occurred just last Sunday in Baltimore — the Mid-Atlantic Drummer & Drummer Boy contests. If you're keeping track of such things, it was a clean sweep from Pennsylvania as David LaBriola (Pennsylvania Mr. Drummer) and Derrick Rojas won the Mid-Atlantic Drummer 2000 titles. For Mid-Atlantic Drummer man, the first runner-up was David Kroblen (Virginia Drummer) and the second runner-up was H. Alexander Robinson (D.C. Drummer). The first runner-up boy was Allen Pittinger (D.C. Drummer Boy) and the second runner-up boy was Darren Cole (Virginia Drummer Boy).

Judges Viola Johnson, Dan Noel, Bob Rourke, Fraser Picard, Victor Varela and Woodie Barnes admitted they didn't have an easy job, the contestants all being first rate. Frank Nowicki did his usual sterling job emceeing, and Mr. Maryland Drummer Paul Bohli won the Brotherhood Award. Of course there was much cheering in Baltimore that night.

With those titles out of the way, we can look forward in two weeks to the International Ms. Leather 2000 contest in Toronto, up Ontario way. A dozen women are vying for the IMsL title, and two women are going after the International Ms. Boot Black honor. On the judging panel, Pam Meyer will join Jay Wagner, Chuck Renslow, Lady D, Laura Antoniou, Merrill Seldes, Susan Wright and Tania Oudemans, while Shann Carr and Dan



Int'l Ms. Leather Pam Meyer passes her sash on next Weekend at IMsL 2000 in Toronto, while her buddy Mr. Northern California Drummer Bauke Ylstra will sash his successor in San Francisco on Saturday, July 29 at the 2000 Northern California Drummer competition.

Noel will share emcee honors.

Toronto is all revved up for the leather-woman invasion. The women to watch include Christine Baker (Calgary), Vendela Zane (Maryland), Phyllis Darcy (Colorado), Jo Blas (San Diego), Lance Moore (San Jose), Daddy Jean (Alameda County), Crickett Watkins (San Diego area) and Jo Ann Wadsworth (Philadelphia).

Alas, for the first time in the contest's history, IMsL will not have a contender from San Francisco, and this absence has raised eyebrows all over the continent. After all, Int'l Ms. Leather started here.

Bears abound

Up in the Russian River area during July 20-24, Harry Lit and his volunteers will be putting on the Lazy Bear Weekend, and hundreds of bear types are expected to participate. All the resorts up there have been booked by the

bear crowd. The main action will be at the Russian River Eagle. I hope Jake and Larry are prepared for the stamped!

Last weekend, the Mr. Southern California Bear competition was staged, and Scooter Garoutte won the right to compete for IM Bear 2001. Richard Murillo was named Cub Bear, the first runner-up was Mike Williams, and the second runner-up was Ted "Bear" Kuehner.

In case you hadn't thought about it, the next International Mr. Bear competition takes place in San Francisco in February 2001. Don't say I didn't alert you.

Jumpin' SF

San Francisco will be jumping the final weekend in July. On Friday, July 28, the 17th SF Leather Daddy will be chosen at the SF Eagle. Rumors abound that Gary Kenyon, Arthur Mainster and Keith Truitt are thinking of throwing their hats in the ring.

On Saturday, July 29, the Northern California Drummer

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, July 13

Step-down and send-off party at Daddy's for Pam Meyer, 2000-2300, a \$7 beer/soda bust with raffles and other fun, to benefit Positive Resources. Pam hands her sash to a successor in Toronto next week.

Saturday, July 15

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, from 1500-1700, for only \$7, including raffles and hot dogs. It benefits Food for Thought and Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank.

Robb Esmonde & Daddy Kat beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 1600-1900, for \$7, all to benefit a women's cancer charity.

Sunday, July 16

Inter-Club Fund beer/soda bust at the Eagle, from 1500 to 1800, for \$8. Food by Harlow, plus eye-candy galore!

Wednesday, July 19

Skivvies night at 933 Harrison, when Underwear Buddies gather to flaunt their "unmentionables" (not so unmentionable any more). Mandatory clothes check. For more info, call 863-HEAD.

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, at 1930. The subject is Water Sports. Learn how to overcome being pee shy, and what not to eat before

pee play. (I wonder if "Chuck With the Rimless Glasses" will be there. Do you remember Golden Shower Queen for Life?)

Weekend July 20-24

Lazy Bear Weekend up at the Russian River.

Mr. Great Lakes Drummer & Drummer Boy in Columbus, Ohio.

IMsL competition in Toronto.

Friday, July 21

Exiles of SF present "Novices Rule" at the Women's Bldg. Determine if you're a top or bottom, and other enlightening esoterica. Doors open 1930-2000 only. Call 835-4739 for more info.

Saturday, July 22

Golden Gate Guards annual trek to Santa Cruz, with the Santa Cruz Big Trees and Pacific Railway trip. Contact the Guards for info.

The 15 Association monthly play party. You know the rules and the location. \$10 donation, amenities furnished. Guests must arrive with you. For an invite and location details, call 673-0452.

Sunday, July 23

Knights of Malta beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8, including food and plenty of cruising.

POLKSTRASSE

Dear Dingbat

by Sweet Lips

Happy birthday (his 32nd) to Daniel "Dingbat" Bench of the Cinch Saloon on Saturday, July 15, with lots of love from Mikey, who is Back East for three weeks.

Last Push: Pushy Phyllis is having a closing party at the New Gold Room on Sunday, July 23, from Noon on. It's another buffet catered by Dennis "Fuzzy Nuts" Tyler.

Celebrations of Life: A memorial service for Patrick Gardner aka Grand Duchess XXV Patty Mae, will be held Sunday, July 16 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (Bush at Gough), with a

reception to follow, 3 p.m. at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St. All entertainers are encouraged to perform at the memorial show at Marlena's. Jerry Peloquin's celebration of life takes place Saturday, July 22 from 3-8 p.m.

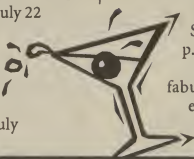
Mr. Lee-Ona's Cocktail Lounge, at 301 Turk St., will throw their 3rd annual Christmas in July party on Sunday, July 23, Noon to 5 p.m., to benefit the Night Ministry. The gala event is produced by Hal Gage and Stan Bates, and the emcees include Empress XVI Pushy P, Emperor IX Bobby Pace, Grand Duchess XVIII Davida, and the

current Grand Duke, Michael Parsons. Food, plant auction, raffle and a show featuring the Blaster Sisters.

Don't miss the Dubonnet Parties at the Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St., July 13 & 27, 7-9 p.m.

Seen out & about: the fabulous Pat Montclair, entertaining at Marlena's; the personable Melvin, tending the bar at La Posada, on Fillmore. In

Chicago, at the Lucky Horseshoe Lounge, 3169 N. Halsted, male dancers 10 times a week — tell Sophie hello from Don Rogus. And tell 'em Sweet Lips sent you. ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

and Drummer Boy titles will be bestowed on two worthies, as judged by the first-ever elected Mr. Drummer, Ray Perea, along with Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear, former No. Calif. Drummer Omar Moseley, former Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey, and Dean Carrico, with Bauke Ylstra, outgoing Mr. Northern California Drummer, the head judge. Tickets for the event \$20, on sale now at Daddy's; otherwise pay \$25 at the door.

On Sunday, July 30, it's the 17th annual "Up Your Alley Fair" taking place in Dore Alley. That's the baby brother to the Folsom Street Fair, but still hordes of people will be there, as indicated by the fact that all South of Market

hostelries have been totally booked for that time.

Auction ears

Last Sunday, the Castro Lions staged their annual Leather Auction, and bargains galore were had as auctioneer Tom Rogers called the bids. During the proceedings, the Phoenix Uniform Club presented more than \$4,500 in proceeds from last month's Leather/Uniform Ball to the AIDS Emergency Fund. In addition, Gary Kenyon presented a check for almost \$500 to the AEF, courtesy of the bartenders' tip jar at the ball. Great going guys!

Don't forget to check out www.LeatherPage.com for leather news from around the world. And remember, until we meet again in these pages, keep living, keep loving and keep laughing — just do it in leather. ▼



N. Calif. Drummer Boy '99 Marty Epstein passes his sash to another hunky lad on Saturday, July 29, when his successor is chosen.

thing for the camera, most of it revolting.

Is any of this truly real, since people alter their behavior when being watched? Is it ethical? Isn't watching a person's every action akin to torture? Ashley and Bryan were both filmed as they wept openly on *Making the Band*, and contestants on the German and Dutch versions of *Big Brother* showed much emotional volatility, from shouting matches to crying jags. On reality TV, real emotion is heightened.

There have been reports of the suicide of one of the Swedish-version *Survivor* castaways, and participants from the European *Big Brothers* have reported their lives remain uncomfortably in the spotlight after the show has ended. The Netherlands Institute of Psychologists deemed the show "irresponsible and unethical."

Nevertheless, many seemingly average, stable Americans are vying for spots on these programs. Among the 10 participants in *Big Brother* are a wife and mother, as well as a husband and father. The mother, Karen, declared she needed some time to herself (with 10 other people, 25 cameras, and no privacy, even in the bathroom.) Her husband seemed quite disturbed by the prospect of three months without his wife of over 20 years. Will their marriage survive the separation? That's clearly already being edited into the plotline.

As disturbing as these aspects of reality TV might be, these shows pack punch as they explicate just how little we know about each other, and how much can be learned through close proximity in stressful circumstances. Issues of personality, sexuality and spirituality impact the responses of each group. On *Survivor*, the gay



Survivor's gay man, Richard

man, Richard, has forged alliances with unlikely comrades, notably the aging Navy Seal, Rudy; while Dirk, a 23-year-old fundamentalist Christian, quoted scripture regularly and was voted off the island because his team couldn't take the preaching. On the island, the flexible gay man is more valuable to the group than the straitened Christian.

These programs are like watching any other spectator sport: the audience cheers for their favorites and jeers those they dislike. But in the course of these contrived challenges, the audience also discovers what works and what doesn't when it comes to human interaction. The appeal of these programs includes a sense that one is learning from the experience of others. Is reality TV simply blatant and somewhat perverse voyeurism, or a crash electronic course in how to survive real life? The verdict's still out, but the ratings are in: We love these peep shows, and our appetite for them gives no sign of slaking. ▼

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UNDERWEAR BUDDIES

Reality TV

◀ page 39


detract from the show's hype. *Good Morning America* held a *Times Square Survivor* contest in which participants were chosen to live on a traffic island in Times Square and given challenges like a hunt for subway tokens in a wading pool while blindfolded.

Stalk on

Reality TV has added to the sense that American life isn't real until it's happened on TV. As Sean, one of the contestants from *Survivor*, told CBS's *48 Hours*, "I've already gotten two stalking calls. It's so cool." He added that if the *National Enquirer* were found going through his trash, that would be "the best." In 2000, being on TV means you've arrived.

Reality TV makes the audience feel that anyone can become a celebrity — today, it's the castaways or the *Big Brother* household, tomorrow it could be you. When the final five were chosen on *Making the Band*, the two who were voted out, Bryan and Mike, were riven. Mike noted he would never really get over not having been chosen to be in the final band, but Bryan said he wouldn't have passed up the experience thus far (three months) for \$1 million.

New reality TV shows are being imported for the fall lineup, including a variation on a Belgian show called *The Mole*, which crosses *Survivor* with *Big Brother* and James Bond; and a girl version of *Making the Band* from Australia. Those shows make the rat-eating, larva-chomping, dog-food-cooking of *Survivor* look tame. With money and fame as incentives, people do almost any-



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SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after

you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°- 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DISCS

Dykes in distress

'The Killing of Sister George' on DVD

by Gary Morris

The Killing of Sister George (1968), now available in an excellent widescreen transfer on DVD (no extras), was one of director Robert Aldrich's personal favorites, but also one of his most problematic in its production and reception. Based on Frank Marcus's hit play of the same title, this controversial property was a good fit for Aldrich, who was always drawn to outsiders and the ways they manage (or fail) to survive in a crass culture that won't tolerate truths that aren't sugar-coated. (His earlier works included the primal campsterpiece *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* and the delicious Kim Novak vehicle *The Legend of Lylah Clare*.)

The "killing" in the title is a metaphorical death — that of "Sister George," a smarmy apple-cheeked do-gooder who stars in a sentimental BBC series about village life. "George" is played in the series by June Buckridge (Beryl Reid), a brassy, bitchy, hard-drinking bull dyke who's the antithesis of the sickeningly sweet character she plays. In spite of the enormous popularity of George, her "death" is inevitable due to the constant embarrassments she inflicts on her employer. Her indecencies are quite public; they include enraged walkouts from the set, drunken binges, and most egregiously, an assault — which Aldrich treats as high comedy — on two novice nuns in a taxi.

George (I'll refer to her as "George" throughout this review, as the film does) has a much younger lover, Alice aka "Childie" (Susannah York), who collects dolls and is generally dim; a good friend in the dominatrix-next-door Betty Thaxter (Patricia Medina); and a nemesis at the BBC, the powerful Mercy Croft (Coral Browne), a more respectable dyke who secretly covets Childie and is the constant bearer of ill tidings for poor Sister George.

Much of the film is taken up with the strange domestic relations between George and Childie. George is insanely jealous of Childie, and verbally — sometimes physically — violent with her. When Childie causes her some anxiety (which was mostly generated by George), George forces her to recite a little contrition speech and eat the butt of a cigar while on her knees. During a visit with Mercy Croft, George be-

comes hysterical over some mindless chitchat between Mercy and Childie about scones, and she screams at Childie to shut up, then pelts her with the scones. Even the comic sequences have a thrillingly nasty edge, as when the duo are dressed as Laurel and Hardy for a visit to the local gay bar and their horseplay becomes ever rowdier.

Real among phonies

A mere plot synopsis might suggest the film is an exercise in grimness and that George is an unsympathetic, even monstrous character, but Aldrich in fact treats much of the action as exceptionally black comedy and makes George the most sympathetic person in the drama, for the simple reason that she's the only "real" person in a sea of fakes.

This idea of reality vs. fakery is one of Aldrich's great themes, and nowhere is it more fully fleshed out than in *Sister George*. George, in spite of being in a career that calls for constant pretense, is disgusted by the lies by which everyone around her lives. She puts all kinds of spirit into her performance as the jolly Sister George, but can't pretend that the values the character and the series espouse have anything to do with reality. Thus, when Mercy Croft tells her how reassuring it is to see her character riding "cheerfully" through the village on her "little motorbike," Sister George cackles, "You'd look cheerful, too, with 50 centimeters throbbin' away between your legs!"

George's unrepentant lesbianism — and unbridled sense of humor — make her ultimately the most attractive character in the film. Reid's performance is complex and riveting, and in some moments heartbreaking, as during her famous three screams of "Moo" at the end (in reference to her presumed fate to move from Sister George to playing the part of Clarabell, "a flawed, credible cow.") The film also occasionally softens her hard edge in scenes with her dour prostitute friend Betty Thaxter, and in witty sequences that show her music hall talent as she mimics Oliver Hardy and Sydney Greenstreet.

Aldrich always had a keen eye for publicity, and his decision to include a lengthy sequence in a real lesbian bar, the Gateways Club in London, nicely dovetails that impulse with his insistence on authenticity. (In this regard there's a strong link to Sister

George, who also insists on living authentically at any cost.) This was a novelty for audiences of the time, seeing lesbians dancing, flirting, and generally carrying on in a safe environment without any obvious disapproval from the film, and it generated considerable notice. And unlike much of what passed for queer cinema at the time, the scene plays with drama and humor, but without sensationalism.

Sister George encountered numerous difficulties during and after the production. Susannah York bristled at the film's most notorious sequence, an extended scene of lesbian lovemaking between Childie and Mercy Croft that was so raw it caused the film to be banned in several locales. Aldrich said that "Susannah was a bitch to her [Browne]" because she (York) simply didn't want to do the scene, which involved blatant nipple-gnawing, sizzling kisses, and other upfront touches. Cameraman Joseph Biroc recalled how tense the director was during the shooting, which took much longer than anticipated. The scene even ended (for a while) Aldrich's work with longtime collaborator Frank DeVol, who quit the film in a fit of homophobia. Still, there's an undeniable erotic power there that made an actress's discomfort and even a lost friendship a small price to pay. Unfortunately, between the time the film started and ended production, the movie



'The story of three consenting adults in the privacy of their own home.'

industry had instituted a new ratings system: P, PG, R and X. Largely on the basis of the lesbian love scene, *Sister George* received an X rating, which limited its exposure in theatres and thus its commercial potential. Aldrich's lawsuit (he spent \$75,000 battling the X rating) was ultimately dismissed, and the film died at the box office.

Sister George remains an important work in Aldrich's canon and a major contribution to early queer cinema, though some commentators have seen it as homophobic in portraying George as a monstrous version of a lesbian and Childie as a goofy, unevolved babydyke. But it's ultimately less a

comment on lesbianism (though it is that) than an exegesis of the human condition. Aldrich was right when he said, "Sister George's loud behavior and individuality... are encompassed in her personality, they're not a product of her lesbianism. She didn't give a shit about the BBC or the public's acceptance of her relationships. That's why they couldn't afford her." Like Aldrich himself, "she didn't fit into the machine."

This crucial work in the dyke canon is available for \$24.95 list price from Anchor Bay Entertainment (<http://www.anchorbay-entertainment.com>) or at your local video store. ▼

FILM

Girls together

When married Sarita discovers she can't have children, for the first time in their lives, Reena (Nisha Ganatra, left) can do something that her perfect sister can't, get pregnant. Reena decides she'll have the baby and give it to her sister and brother-in-law. Now she just has to convince Lisa (Jill Hennessy, right), her commitment-phobic girlfriend, to go along with the idea.

Chutney Popcorn, the first feature film to portray the Indian American lesbian experience, plays the Roxie Cinema, 3125 16th St., from July 14-27. ▼



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PARTING GLANCES

Fri. 6/2/00 Thistack Restaurant
I was with 2 friends and you were with a friend. You said "How embarrassing" when your friend dropped his fork. We kept looking at each other. Please call me. ☎ 72013

May 3 In PM, U On All 4's
Cute boy in khakis- we should have talked. Call me. The attraction was mutual. ☎ 72131

United Wash Dulles Flight Sat.
Cute boy in khakis- we should have talked. Call me. The attraction was mutual. ☎ 72131

Guardian Angel
5-26-00 Mkt. St. Accident. You assisted with Police & Davies Medical Center. Would like to say "Thank you" in person. ☎ 72071

Vince, Met You Este Noche 5/28
I was the other Vince. Call, I would like to meet you. ☎ 72015

Dan, It's Dave From Portland
Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday night, Blow Buddies. We hung out all night. Lost your card & number. Would love to stay in touch. ☎ 72016

Pride SF 2000 Rt. Broken Arm John
Sexy! We had a very nice hello! I want to sign your cast!!! Let's continue where we left off! Wanna dance? Troy. ☎ 72106

Japantown Parking Garage
You were paying at register (Memorial Day, Sunday). Me at end of long line. Our eyes locked. We laughed. You with parents. Please call. ☎ 72017

Yellow Dandelion @ VW Bug 6/3
We stopped @ stop light Market & Eureka. You said, "I like your dandelion", over the window. You: red BMW, baseball cap. Me VW, Asian, baseball cap. Can we? ☎ 72020

Lawrence Of Scarsdale
Enjoyed your trip? How about lunch-dinner-theatre? All the above? Dmkn-Rye-Trilogy, pls call. ☎ 72019

Perrin, You Still Live In Me
Your best friend is James. Matt in Oak. ☎ 72075

6/14 Filipino Guy In Scrubs
You: cute Flip or Latino guy, boarding #33 at 18th & Castro 3pm. We kept checking each other out. Me: cute White boy, 24. Coffee or more? ☎ 72072

Christopher From Wash. DC
Midnight Sun. I was mean and am deeply sorry you didn't deserve that. May I take you to dinner? Second chance? Sincerely Tom. ☎ 72105

Bernal Heights 6/19 At Night
We met in Bernal Heights, talked... is there any chance we can talk more? Please call. ☎ 72111

Blond Larry At Twin Peaks
Via Chicago/LA/ Guerneville. I think you're pretty swell. Like to get to know you. ☎ 72112

Market Street Safeway Sun 6/11
Approx. 1:45pm... You: blond GWM leaving. Me: GAM coming in. Us: both good-looking and looking at each other in parking lot. ☎ 72077

L- Taraval 11:30pm Sat. 6/24
U NYP?D T on W Portal off 15th Ave, stood mid door smiling at me. Regret not getting off with you! Me SF leather cap, green vest. Was it fate? Pls. call. ☎ 72107

Union City Bart-Gay Pride Sun.
Around 11:40am. We noticed each other near the ticket machines. You're Caucasian, 20's, dark hair and eyes, with some friends. I was in shorts and t-shirt. Your train to SF left before I reached the platform. You're very handsome. Please call. ☎ 72108

Rake's Progress & Parsifal
#24/ Divisadero, Fri. 6/16, we talked about those operas. Now I've seen both. Would love to talk with you more. Opera chat is my primary goal. Steve. ☎ 72109

Embarcadero Bart Wed 6/21 Aft.
Also on wknd, all star & 42 line. You- sexy BM, s/p beard. Loved checking out you hot, smooth chest- Show me more! Let's play! Me-tall, dk hr & goatee. ☎ 72110

Wow! Dark Beard On Sanchez St.
June 28 Wednesday, around 8:30pm I was walking my dog, I have short hair and moustache. You dark beard walked into building @ Sanchez & Market. ☎ 72132

Golden Gate Bridge South 6/18
Sunday 7pm- You, a passenger in a blue Mustang convertible. Me, in a black Ford Ranger - I turned @ Webster-we waved-let's have dinner? ☎ 72074

Prince Albert On Baker Beach
Wednesday 6/14- You: short blond hair, gold sunglasses, Prince Albert, very sexy, white/black plaid bunket. Me: with child. We smiled, you waved bye. Call! ☎ 72073

Davies Radiology, Late April
Chatted w/you while partner was getting x-rayed. Had good conversation about treatment. Partner now deceased, would like to reconnect with you. ☎ 72133

"Caught Off Guard!"
Sun, 5/21, Potrero Safeway. You: Purdue cap and glasses. Me: blue shirt and ratty gray sweater. I'm kicking myself for not introducing myself. Can we have another go? ☎ 72018

Justin- Powerhouse Sunday 6/18
I really enjoyed the time we spent together. You're a great kisser. Wish I had pen/paper in the car to get your number. I want to get to know you more. Eric. ☎ 72076

Gay Cherokee Indian Wants Love
5'8", 145lbs. long dark hair, love Charles Ely, Michael Lucas, & Mike Crews. Want to rub my deal against yours. Send phone & email. Want to make love to all. ☎ 72134

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Good Looking Straight Type
Genuine, fun loving, non-scene GWM 42, 6'1", 195lbs. not into gay life. Seeks romance and love with similar good looking, masculine, relationship-oriented, non-scene nice guy with personality. S 72012

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160# Shaved Head
Br eyes Mustache Goatee Passionate Romantic Seeking Short Young vers bottom Latin Lover. ☎ 72021

Balding S&P Shy Versatile Guy
GWM, 48, 190lbs, hairy, uncult, clean and sober, sincere, honest. Very versatile. Skg other versatile GM, no smokers for dating, regular sex, and companionship. ☎ 72022

Seeking Bareback Bottom
HIV-negative East bay GWM, 6'1", 165#, 62, affectionate gentle bareback top seeks bareback bottom lover/companion/ friend for caring sex and other shared interests. No smoking/drugs. HIV negative only. ☎ 72023

Affectionate And Sincere
Looking for an honest, affectionate, fun-loving bottom, mid 50's, masculine and fit. I know how to cuddle and kiss and a few other things. ☎ 72024

Do You Like Alternative Music,
Tokin Mota, bikini 2 Baker Beach, balling buck naked? I'm 42- 5'8"- 150 b/lb bottom healthy inhapse HIV+. Like you 21-45, dark complexion, big ears, long hair, uncult top r A+ 's. ☎ 72025

Man Is Great In His Transition
Are you ready? 170lb. 5'9", good-looking GLM 40's seeks for someone with brains, heart, courage & body. HIV+ plus, working out is a must. ☎ 72026

Wanted: Occasionally A
Handsome, mature, wealthy, unattached man, who will escort this very hot ex-kept BM man. Dining, theatre, travel. HIV-. ☎ 72027

Looking Old Fashioned LTR
Tall stocky GWM professional, 50's HIV-, spiritual, smoker HIV-, well grounded, cut, hard, looking for average professional, financially independent, educated, good-heart, cut, orally inclined, likes mother. HIV+ okay. ☎ 72028

Life Can Be Sunny-Wanna Share?
ISO best friend-lover 4 LTR. Me- GWM 56, 5'11", 150lbs. Smoker, non-drinker, quiet, secure, nice guy, HIV-. You- HIV-, mature (50's), caring GM (White, Asian, Latin). ☎ 72029

Oral Specialist For Select Few
Divorced, professional, WM, seeks, select married, young, athletic, males for oral satisfaction. No reciprocation is needed. ☎ 72030

Gruff Goofy Bear
6'4", 240lbs moderately hairy versatile/ top Bx6 believes trust and respect are earned not bestowed likes quiet things in life. Occasional partying, humor & cuddling. Daddy types big + kink ok! ☎ 72031

Asian ISO White Male
Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, clean shaven. In search of White male in their 30's. Smooth. In great shape for friends, date and more. ☎ 72032

Attractive New To Area
Healthy HIV+ WM in San Rafael is seeking a loving LTR with Middle Eastern, Mediterranean or Latino men 40 to 50 years old n/s, n/d. ☎ 72033

Nice Guy!
GWM, 42y.o., 6'2", 200lbs, HIV- seeks prof. 35 to 45y.o. top. Interest include music, movies, travel & spending quality times together! HIV- only pls. ☎ 72034

The Man In Those Great Dreams
I'm Craig, HIV+, healthy, WM, 5'9", 145#, raised in H.M.B. 40yo decent-looking, blue-colored and intelligent. Seeking even keeled very sexy W guy for laying pipe, witty fun & productive living. ☎ 72035

Athletic Poz Top
Young 40, GWM, br, ha, clean cut, sensual prof. 35, 5'10", 172, seeks a man to enjoy outdoors, sweaty workouts in & out of gym & more. ☎ 72036

cut4cut
Goodlooking Asian cub 26, 5'9", 185 ISO GWM or GHM for dating & LTR. Great sense of humor a plus. ☎ 72037

Life Is Very Short-Goodlooking
Japanese 40 for LTR possible monogamous, me healthy, sum/athletic seeks GWM 60+ professional, positive thinker. Interest in show, music, travel, clothes, movie, sports. ☎ 72038

Seeking Relationship
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185, brn/blue, beard, HIV neg, seeks on-going relationship with warm and loving GM who practices safe sex and enjoys being jacked off by his partner. ☎ 72039

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34y/o brown eyes, darkhair goatee professional, looking for GWM between 26-40y/o for friendship or more. Like: biking, hiking, going out to dinner, traveling etc. Just call ☎ 72040

Handsome Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks another HIV negative well hung man who is honest and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 72041

Attractive Chinese Seeks GWM
55 or over for LTR. I am 50, 5'8", 155#, sincere and caring. I prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72042

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Passionate Top LM

Seeks fun, friendly, and playful guys for friendship and more. I'm 35/150/5", romantic, educated, well traveled, and intense. Take a chance, I know you're out there. ☎ 72078

GAM Seeks GWM

Are you beefy and bawny? Are you hairy and horny? GAM, 5'7", 5'8", 135, brn/bl, HIV neg, seeks such a man for the pleasures of body rubbing and frottage. ☎ 72079

Your Royal Hairiness

Versatile GWM hairy bear, 60's, HIV-, thick cut, big head, muscular hairy thighs, seeks hairy top any age. My throat & hole crave your stiff scepter. Eat me. ☎ 72080

"Black Man Wanted!"

Masculine, muscular (46") chest, 32" waist, 19" biceps) WM, mid 30's wants masculine BM (preferably tall) for LTR. Age unimportant, but no effeminate men, please. ☎ 72081

"GWM Professional, Moving To S.F."

In near future. Seeks friends for fun and dating. I have a fetish for nylon tights/pantihose. Not into cross-dressing. Very sensual. Love outdoors, bicycling, walks, and am a movie goer. Have two manx cats. ☎ 72135

~Ready To Date~

GWM, healthy, poz, 5'8", 165lbs, drk hr, fit, 41, sane, wants heart/pysical connection. You: top, balanced, humorous, taller A+. S 72082

Handsome Positive Hunk For You

Stable sincere goodlooking GWM, 5'10", 190lbs, 46" chest, 32", 18" arms, looking for friendship/dating, possibly more, with other HIV+ man who has a brain as well as a good body. ☎ 72083

If UR Slim Smooth GWM

HIV+ guy affectionate romantic masculine, into working out. Under 40yrs old. Young look. I'm Latin gym toned, 36yr old, body, dark featured, versatile. H: 5-07, w-157. Live in SF-zzz. Call if you want to chat over coffee? ☎ 72084

Beauty Inside And Out

Professional GWM, youthful 40, 5'10", 160#, 40" ch, 31" w, Mediterranean, good looks, big heart. Seeks GWM/GHM 35-45, confident, well-travelled, honest, for romance (uncut A+, not essential). ☎ 72085

Gute Asian Seeking LTR

GAM, 35, 5'8", 155, workout regularly, smooth, toned body. ISO muscular, hairy, athletic types between the ages of 33-43yrs. Must be honest and sincere. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72086

Texas Boy Seeks Buckaroo

34yr old smooth, athletic regular guy seeks slim ethnic urbane (26-32) for hangin out friendship, whatever, integrity & adventurous a plus. ☎ 72088

"Get Your Stuff" Victoria 6/17

You: Asian guy in rush to party. Me: White guy in next seat who guarded your coat. We talked but didn't offer telephone numbers. Want to do another movie? ☎ 72089

Are You Ready For Fun?

GWM 31, 5'8", ISO good looking in-shape dark hair & eyes, tattooed looking to meet other fun young hip guys for friendship or more. ☎ 72113

Two Guys Looking For 3rd

Would like to meet versatile top (35-50) with hankering for it as a threesome. Dad: 5-10, 150#, lightly muscled, 51. Boy: 6-1, 160#, trim, 38. Both HIV+. ☎ 72114

Poz Brawn And Brains

Handsome prof, Italian GWM, shaved, goatee, 5'10", 46ch 32w, 17a, HIV+, made hunky, not into jumping; bed hoping; seeking to meet other good looking down to earth guys for friendship and possible more. Let's talk and see what happens. ☎ 72115

First Time Cock Sucker

Masculine WM 57 French passive experience only. Seeking senior 70-75 to practice cocksucking on if you're cut still hard. Possible weekly visits if we're compatible. ☎ 72116

GWM Sks Black Male 45 + Older

Masculine WM 57 French passive experience only. Seeking senior 70-75 to practice cocksucking on if you're cut still hard. Possible weekly visits if we're compatible. ☎ 72116

GAM ISO Friend

Mature GAM seeks friendship and more. I'm 40/140/5'8", educated, professional. No overweights please. ☎ 72118

~Love Is In The Air~

My heart is open, 36 HIV+ attractive healthy. Positive attitude, spiritual. Looking for HIV+ male, any race, 25 to 37yr old masculine, athletic, attractive top. Emotionally available, affectionate, loving for friendship/ltr. ☎ 72137

GWM 36, 5'10"/175lbs, Healthy

Humorous seeks down to earth GWM in his 30's for ltr. Clean shaven, clean cut, in-shape guys only. ☎ 72136

Young Handsome Russian

Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40y.o. to give my body and soul. ☎ 72087

"Seeking Matured Man!"

I like matured men late 50's to 60's, weight proportioned to height who would enjoy being serviced periodically. No reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. Let's get together. ☎ 72138

SEEKING ADVENTURE**Got Quads?**

Powerful, muscular legs turn me on. If you got 'em and know how to use 'em, give me a call. Me: BM, mid 40's, gym toned, athletic, sensual. ☎ 72043

You Will Not Regret This Call

WM-30's tall, good looking, in-shape, great personality, many interests. Seeks same in Asian or Latin masculine men. ☎ 72044

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms

Are wanted by 56yr old White man 6'0", 160lbs, drk brn hair glasses. Big 9" cut tool want to fuck your hot butt be under 45. ☎ 72045

South Bay

GWM, 45yrs, 5'8", sensual, sexy, safely, uninhibited likes to be photographed, indoor/outdoor, let's have fun. ☎ 72046

Dad Needs Bottom Boy

Me: oral, topman GWM, 50, 6'5", 350, brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach, You: attractive, GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate body/hair, nice buns. Spanking, assplay, roleplay. ☎ 72047

Discreet Oral Relief

Very attractive, WM, 41/6/175, fit, hairy, HIVneg, single, ISO WM who loves to get head in S.F. Ub honest, HIVneg, and hung. Looking to spoil someone. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 72142

East Bay Single GWM Top Seeks

Versatile bottom for marathon sex fantasies. You GWM, over 40, 45 years, trim and fit, masculine and clean cut, smooth, muscular a plus, no scat, HIV, or heavy sm. ☎ 72048

Professional ISO Safe Clean Fun

Me: 37, 5'10", Asian, clean cut, slender built, not into scene. Enjoy long fore play, kissing, oral, jo, massage, showers, lots of body contact. Std free and healthy living important. ☎ 72049

Hot Ass Here For Pride Week?

Middleage, but hung and horny total top (a local legend) will poke you deeply in your hole. Must leave your full name. Hotels only. Husky a plus. ☎ 72050

Asian, Filipino, Latin Bottoms

Hot GWM wants to tongue & cock fuck your ass. VGL, fit body Italian 38, 165#, 5'8", HIV-, 7.5 cut cock. Let's meet & play. ☎ 72051

E. Bay Bottom Seek Active Top

Healthy handsome A/M, 50+; you a clean top, no drug/disease, any race/age/size, willing and able to fuck me after lots of touches/kisses/cuddlings; West/South Bay location also ok. ☎ 72052

GWM Seeking Hot Encounters

GWM, 42, 5'7", ISO trim 30-50 years old Asian, Latin or Black for hot on-going morning or daytime passionate fun. Do you like to kiss, hug & stroke? ☎ 72053

Chubby-Daddy-Teddy-Grizzly-Bear

Hot, fun, 52, 6', 218 chub lbs., versatile, safe, and a real human being enjoys vanilla to lt. kink w/boys/men trimmer & younger than I. Castro & Grnvle. ☎ 72054

Butt Buddies

GWM, 41, 6'2", 240lbs, leather, beard/hairy, has play room for dildo/toy/buttpplay action. Versatile only, beginners ok. Friendly, safe-2 slings/massage table. Bears A+++. ☎ 72055

Step Into Your Fantasies

Like underwear, mirrors, toys, leather, shaving, cockbut play, light bondage, no pain, wicked desire. Be under 45, h/w proportion, smooth & hear about male.... ☎ 72056

GWM For GWM Daytimes

If you are footloose & fancy free towards me great head on your "shopping trips" or whatever then I'm your man. ☎ 72057

Young Slave For Training

Very cute 26y.o. white submissive European boy wants to be fully trained by a cute but demanding master(s) under 36. Total obedience is guaranteed. ☎ 72058

HIV+ Bkls 5'9" 165# Healthy Active

Mostly top seeking 1 on 1 interaction with lean or slim build mostly bottom. Attracted to guys with good body proportion. Prefer guys in my size range. ☎ 72059

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms

Are wanted by 56yr old White top with a big 9" tool. I am 6'0", drk brn eyes, 160lbs wear glasses. Love to fuck young guys White or Latino under 40yrs old. ☎ 72059

Male Ballet Dancer Wanted

Attractive GBM, 35 would like to meet a current or former professional gay male Ballet Dancer, any age for fun and good times. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72093

Handsome Muscular Hung Bottom

Is looking for good looking hung top or versatile guys for hot sex. I'm deep throat and hot ass. Tall is a plus. Can't wait to sit on it. ☎ 72124

Flip Flop Sex

GWM 52, 6'2", 180lb, HIV+, 7 1/2 tool. Don't call if you are bottom only. I believe that you should give as well as you get. Just sex- not your fantasy about sex. ☎ 72139

Naked & Exposed

Private forced nudity fantasy games. Complete front & rear exposure. Lean, tight guy 48 seeks yng trim guys to strip & examine. You be proud or embarrassed or both. ☎ 72094

Virgin White Athlete, 4 Black

Slim man. 6'1", 205 blue/brown rookie has dreams of Oreo Cookie. Will you be the Black man that makes me proud? I shoe so! ☎ 72095

Do You Love Jackin Off? I Do...

Cute 32yo Filipino seeks cute smooth h/w proportionate WM to 35 for j/buddies. Hours of porn, sharing stories, coaxing each other to pump, stroke and squirt! Touching not required. ☎ 72096

French Guys And Italian Guys

I am looking for guys that are from France and Italy for fun and good times. I am hung "9". ☎ 72097

Oral Bottom

Cocksucking, asslicking gay loves to serve and worship beautiful guys. ☎ 72098

Just Shut Up And Ride

WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue muscle hunk wants to meet hot masculine male to fuck. Also love to get massaged and jerked off- anytime. ☎ 72119

All Nite Sexy Uninhibited Party

Wanted sexy guys w/b to share my girlslut secret. Maybe be my part time nasty boyfriend b/w M/M discreet 5'10", 185 atir shaved 31yo love to pose for camera. ☎ 72120

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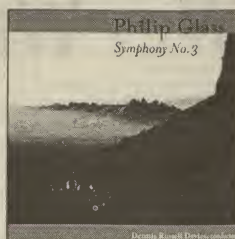
by Michael McDonagh

Some composers keep writing the same piece over and over. Lots of people think Philip Glass has been doing that for years. But if you listen closely, you'll find this isn't so. Sure, Glass' trademarks are often present, but what's surprising is how he varies his approach from piece to piece. The works on two new CDs from Naxos and Nonesuch date from 1983 to '95, when Glass wrote concert music as well as operas, film scores, string quartets and pieces for his own amplified band. It's fascinating to see how things from the same period end up sounding completely unique. *The Light*, for example, which Dennis Russell Davies conducts on Nonesuch, doesn't sound at all like the Violin Concerto (Takuo Yuasa conducts on Naxos), though both are from the same year, 1987.

The Symphony #3 (1995), on Nonesuch, surely counts as a major work. Composed for the legendary Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, it gets much of its character from the white-on-white strings-only scoring. Yet Glass draws as much color and rhythmic variety as did Bernard Herrmann in *Psycho* (1960) and Stravinsky in his ballet *Apollo* (1928). The first of the symphony's four movements exploits the difference between a short, pulsed figure and a long, flatted melody.

The second scherzlike movement — there's even a mini trio — has complex, staggered rhythms and rich textures. The succeeding slow movement is built on a repeating bass line with intense and steady string partnering episodes on top. A kind of ecstatic lament, it also has the feeling of a tragedy barely contained. Glass' vigorous finale recaps some of his basic material. Davies leads a vibrant yet detailed performance. He's premiered all of Glass' symphonies — there are now five, including two based on music by Bowie and Brian Eno — so he really knows his way around this music. The 5th, which got a 25-minute ovation at the Salzburg Festival last summer, will be conducted by Davies at BAM in October, and Nonesuch plans to release its recording then.

The Naxos CD contains the third recording of the Violin Concerto, and it far outclasses the first with soloist Gidon Kremer. This one, with the Australian violinist Adele Anthony in the spotlight, has a fluidity and delicacy of tone lacking in the Kremer, and the Ulster Orchestra, under its principal guest conductor Takuo Yuasa, provides warm, deeply expressive support. The Ulster also gives a very dramatic interpretation of Glass' 1983 *Company*, originally written as a string quartet to be performed in the pauses of Beckett's monologue of the same name. Kronos recorded that version, the London Chamber Or-



chestra the bigger one, though its performance is pretty pallid.

Both new discs also have excerpts from other Glass works. Davies leads his Stuttgart orchestra in two interludes from Robert Wilson's *the CIVIL wars* (1984), which is better than his version of the complete score with the American Composers Orchestra on Nonesuch. And he also conducts the *Mechanical Ballet* from Act 1 of Glass' 1992 Columbus opera *The Voyage*, commissioned by New York's Metropolitan Opera, recorded here by his 30-year-old Vienna Radio Symphony. This is its first appearance on CD, and Davies' experience with the piece shows — he led the spring 1996 revival at the Met.

Though Yuasa has recently done a lot of opera, he hasn't, as far as I know, performed Glass' *Akhmaten* (1984). The prelude and general dance, though well enough played here, lack the refined timing and drama which Davies produces in his complete recording. Although Glass' *The Light* wasn't written for the stage, it benefits from his theatrical sense. Davies and the Vienna Radio Symphony project it superbly. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

hind British comedy series *Absolutely Fabulous* are cooking up a new series, *Out There* could hardly contain our excitement. The *NY Times* reported, "The show, *Mirrorball*, will star Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, the two women who also starred in *Ab-Fab*. Ms. Saunders, who wrote the original, will again write this

series, which will focus on theatrical characters involved in London's West End musicals. The two actresses will play new characters, one a former dancer, the other a former disco diva, both past their primes but still game. ...

"Most of the rest of the supporting cast from *Ab-Fab* will also reappear as new characters, including Judith Sawalha, June Whitfield and Jane Horrocks. Ms. Horrocks, who also starred in the stage and movie versions of

Little Voice, will play an Icelandic waitress-singer in the new series."

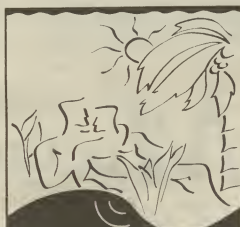
Mirrorball will premiere next year on the BBC before eventually appearing on BBC America and Comedy Central. OT is thrilled, though somehow we feel the *Ab-Fab* world of glam fashion editor Patsy and addled p.r. queen Edina ("I p.r. things!") seemed closer to our own. But, as our main squeeze Pepi says, word of the new series gives us a reason to live. ▼

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Way West

by Robert Julian

Becoming Mae West by Emily Wortis Leider; Da Capo Press, \$18

There was only one Mae West, a unique product of her times, her upbringing, and her own strong-willed self-determination. Biographer Emily Wortis Leider exposes all three in the fascinating *Becoming Mae West*, now available in paperback from Da Capo Press. Leider's work, an impressive compendium of factual data, is also a very good read. West fans, and anyone interested in the evolution of vaudeville, will find it impossible to put this book down.

Those who think Mae West bore more than a passing resemblance to a drag queen will find themselves vindicated by Leider's research. West, who spent over 20 years in vaudeville before making her first film, performed with many female impersonators and stole shamelessly from their repertoire of "expressions and mannerisms, which blended seamlessly with her own strutting style." And although she had no affinity for lesbians, she was fond of gay men, expressing the sentiment that they were actually women trapped in a man's body. In fact, West tried to produce her play *The Drag*, but the show was shut down by censors before its Broadway debut. She often wrote roles in her plays for gay male performers and broke color barriers with her inclusion of blacks as well.

The aggressively antagonistic approach West took to the conservative morals of her time was partly a reflection of her own libertine ways, as well as a ploy for free publicity to titillate a paying audience. But her overt sexuality brought many expensive court cases, and actually served to delay her appearance in film. At first, Hollywood thought the lady was simply too hot to handle. When West finally arrived on the screen,



Mae West in *I'm No Angel*, 1933

just before her 40th birthday, she proved they were right.

Leider's authoritative approach follows West only to the end of the 1930s. The years that follow this mark West's decline as a performer and her slip into self-parody. But along the way, the reader will discover that West, a grade school dropout, was both more and less than one might imagine. While displaying kindness and generosity toward her family and friends, she was ruthless in stealing credit for writing done by others. The decidedly low-brow West was controlling, manipulative, and an extraordinary liar in service to her own image.

For these reasons, the human side of the woman is difficult to extract from the facts that Leider so meticulously assembles. But what a collection it is. Remember the classic "Beulah, peel me a grape?" The line was evidently inspired by West's pet monkey, who loved grapes but insisted on peeling them before he ate them. Revelations like this make *Becoming Mae West* a classic for fans of early 20th-century filmmaking. ▼

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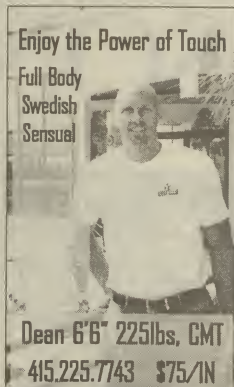


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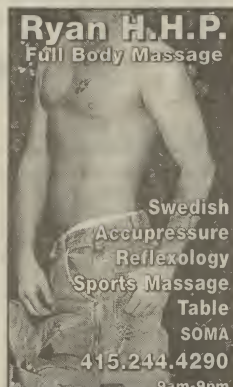
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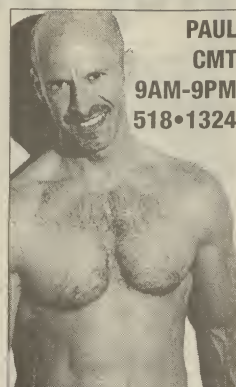
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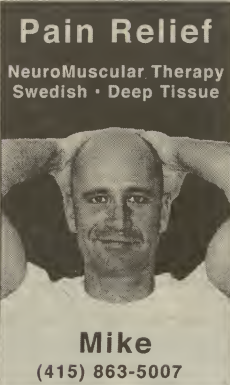


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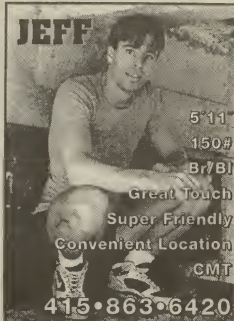


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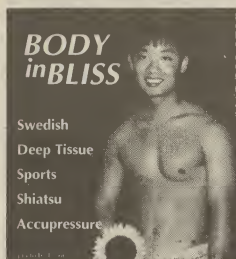
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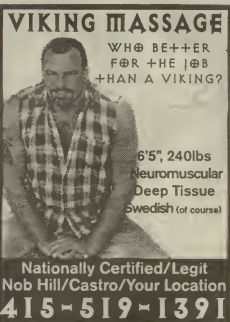
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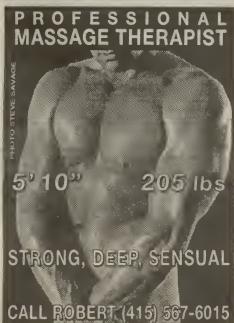
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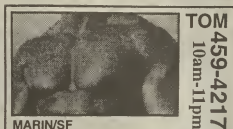
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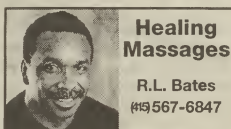


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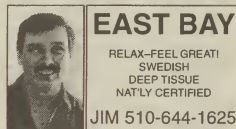
TOM
10am-11pm
MARIN/SF



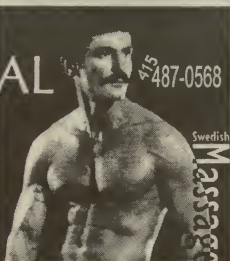
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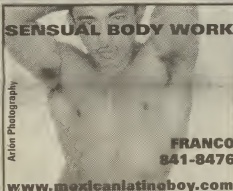
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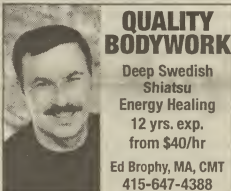
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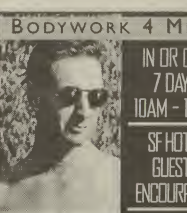
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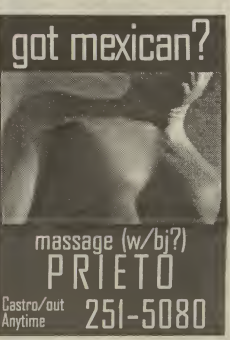


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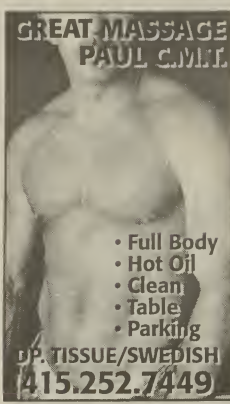
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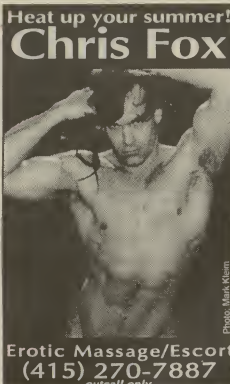
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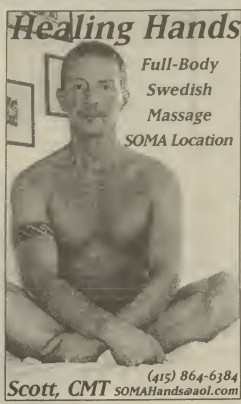
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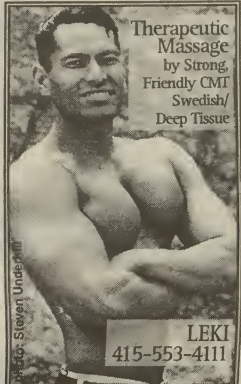
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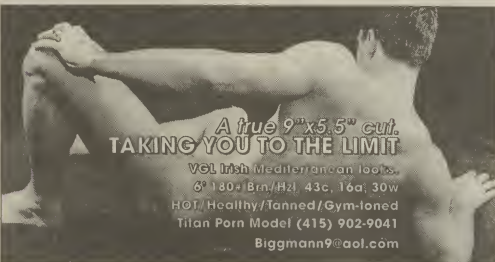
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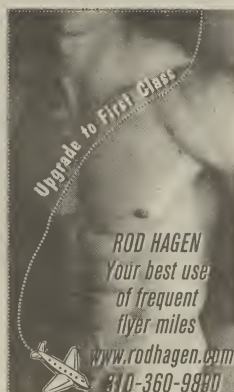
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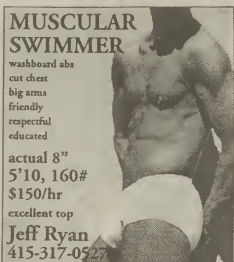
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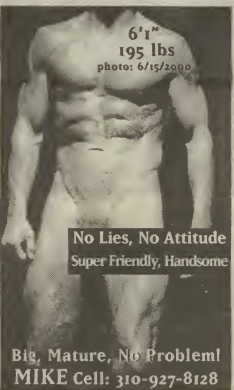


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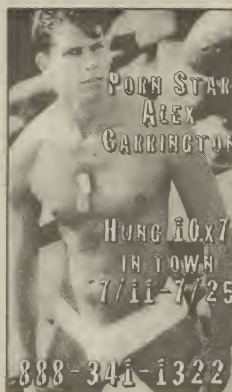
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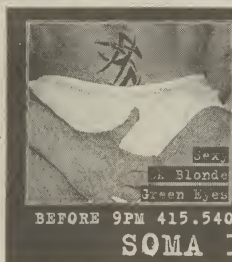
Sexy blond jock with w/shbrd abs &
Incredible pecs. 5'9", 165, 8-1/2" c
Tanned, masculine, & very
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JASON 864-1190



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ALEX
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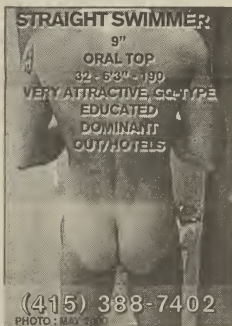
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100%REAL NO BS 'OR'
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8 1/2 x 5 1/2 Real inches
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5'10", 150# 8in thick cut tastyass
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CUTE, MUSCULINE, HUNG**
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Distinguished escort
handsome hung age 45
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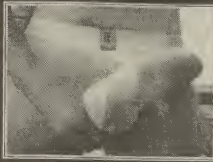
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Muscular 37 6'4" 200#
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relief. SF 100/150. Morlex 679-3320

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By hot hung top 888 215 2268

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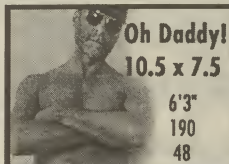
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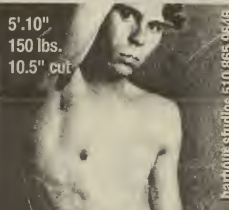
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SM, WS, Brown Hair,
CBT, flat top,
FF, Blue Eyes,
Fetish, mustache,
Slave 7" Uncut
Training.



Beginners Welcome

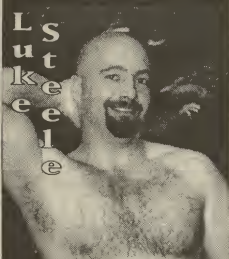
Have equipment and playspace.

Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out

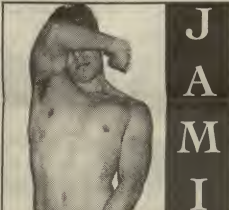
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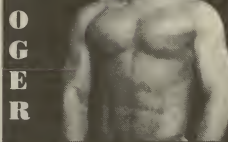
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Italian

5'6" 135lbs

Smooth, Tan

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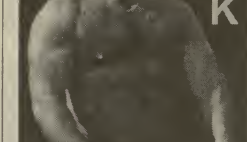
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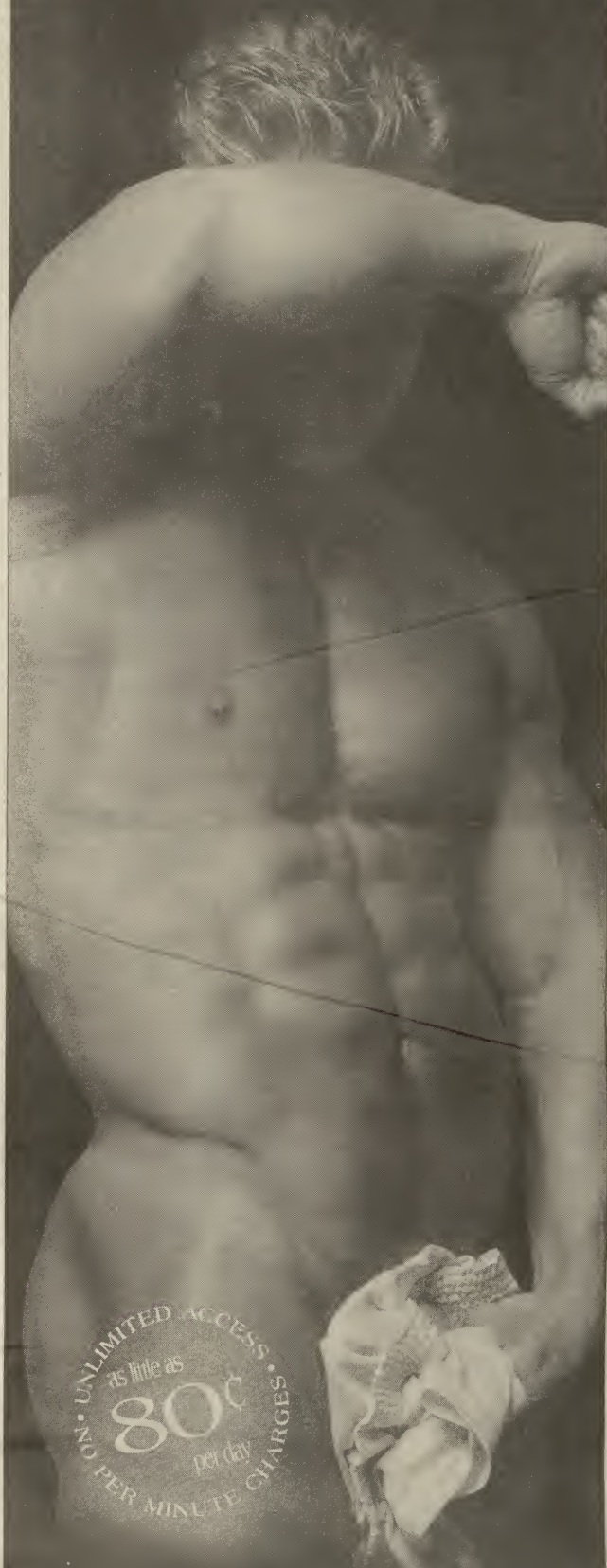
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